

## OFFICERS:

CHAIRMAN:  
MRS. W. E. ECKLER  
BOX 183  
DELRAY BEACH, FLORIDA

## VICE CHAIRMAN:

ROBERT L. GILDAN  
11015 HARVEY BLDG.  
1ST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA

## SECRETARY:

MRS. ALAN S. RUSH  
812 FLAMINGO DRIVE  
WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA

# PALM BEACH COUNTY LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## MEMBERS:

MRS. A. J. VANBERKUM  
KENNETH NOLEN  
MISS MAMIE T. SHANNON  
CHARLES MUNNINGS  
WEST PALM BEACH  
MRS. LAWRENCE R. LEVITON  
PALM BEACH  
MRS. CHARLES TAFFEL  
PALM SPRINGS  
MRS. LESLIE G. THOMPSON  
LAKE WORTH  
PAUL SPEICHER  
DELRAY BEACH  
WILLIAM F. MITCHELL  
BOCA RATON  
MRS. MILDRED LARRICK  
LAKE HARBOR  
MRS. F. H. POTEETE  
PAHOKEE  
LARRY ROYAL  
BELLE GLADE

January 18, 1967

The regular meeting of the Palm Beach County Library Advisory Committee was called to order by the chairman, Mrs. W. E. Eckler, on Wednesday, January 18, 1967, at 8:10 p.m. in the Boca Raton Public Library.

Members present were: Mrs. Eckler, Mr. Gildan, Mrs. Rush, Mrs. Leviton, Mr. Speicher, Miss Shannon, Mrs. Taffel, Mrs. Nye, Mrs. Larrick and Mr. Orel. Those absent were: Mr. Nolen, Mr. Royal, Mrs. Thompson, Mr. Munnings and Mrs. Poteete.

Mrs. Eckler welcomed Mrs. Carolyn Milligan, member of the League of Women Voters of South Palm Beach County. Mr. Orel welcomed members and guest to the Boca Raton Library and served refreshments.

Mrs. Leviton made a motion that we accept the minutes of the October 19, 1967 meeting as distributed. Motion seconded and carried.

The Chairman told us we had received two invitations: 1. The League of Women Voters on Wednesday, February 8, 1967, at 11 a.m. in the American Finnish Club at Lantana. They would like to have our Chairman discuss the establishment of a Palm Beach County Library system. 2. The Palm Beaches Chapter of the National Secretaries Association on Tuesday, February 14, at 8:30 p.m. in the West Palm Beach library lecture room. They would like Mrs. Eckler and Mr. Gildan to serve on a panel moderated by Miss Zella Adams.

The chairman suggested we hold these invitations in abeyance until after our meeting with the County Commissioners.

Mrs. Eckler reminded us that at our October meeting we divided into two committees -- a Committee on Contracts with Mr. Gildan as Chairman and a Committee on Budget with Mr. Speicher as Chairman.

Mr. Gildan reported that his committee met and went over contracts. He read a sample contract with West Palm Beach as a hypothetical contracting party (see copy attached to these minutes).

County residents fall into three categories: 1. Everybody outside of city limits (unincorporated areas). 2. Incorporated areas which do not use tax money for library purposes. 3. Remaining municipalities which elect to come into the county system.

There was a discussion of a uniform card system.

Mr. Speicher reported on the Budget Committee meeting. He distributed the following information: 1. Tabulation of 14 Palm Beach County Libraries as of January 1, 1967 showing population of cities, taxable values of cities, per capita library support, library millage, and \$ tax support. 2. Budget for Palm Beach County Library including comments on income figures and expense figures. 3. A proposed 5 year Budget (see copies of these 3 papers attached to these minutes).

Mrs. Taffel reminded us to include in the contract that funds be used specifically for libraries. Mr. Gildan agreed that a statement to this effect be in the contract.

There was a discussion of further changes to be made in the proposed budget.

OFFICERS:

CHAIRMAN:

MRS. W. E. ECKLER  
BOX 183  
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THE CHAIRMAN:

ROBERT L. GILDAN  
OM 1015 HARVEY BLDG.  
WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA

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PALM BEACH COUNTY  
LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

*January 18, 1967*

MEMBERS:

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BELLE GLADE

*The Chairman will write to County Commission Chairman Van Kessel about meeting with the County Commissioners soon. When she receives a reply, she will ask Mrs. Rush, the secretary, to notify all the committee members of the time and place of the next meeting.*

*As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:00 p.m.*

*Reine Rush*

*Reine Rush (Mrs. Alan S.)  
Secretary*

*Attachments 4.*

P. O. Box 183  
Delray Beach, Fla. 33444  
January 19, 1967

Mr. E. F. Van Kessel, Chairman  
Board of County Commissioners  
Court House  
West Palm Beach, Fla. 33401

Dear Mr. Van Kessel:

At our meeting last night we arrived at agreement on a proposal for library service for Palm Beach County. The members of the committee feel that we should report to the Board of County Commissioners before making any of our proposal public. We are, therefore, respectfully asking that the members of the Board meet with us some evening to be designated by you before February 3rd, preferably in the Commission meeting room if possible.

Since the majority of the members of the committee work, it will be possible for them to attend the meeting only in the evening and we want to have as many of them present as possible as I am sure you will. Some of those who will participate in making the presentation can come only at night.

We have two requests to make reports to organizations, the first to a joint meeting of the League of Women Voters of the West Palm Beach Area and South Palm Beach County on February 8th; the other is to the members of the Palm Beach Chapter of the National Secretaries Association on February 14th. The members of both of these organizations could be very helpful in promoting acceptance of the proposal around the county. However, before we speak to them we definitely want you to be advised.

As you are no doubt aware, the press is waiting for information and again we would like to report to you rather than have you read the results of our work in the paper.

As soon as you advise me of the date, place and hour that will be convenient with you, I will notify the members of our committee.

Thank you for your interest and assistance.

Yours very truly,

(Mrs. W. E.) Eekler  
Chairman

A G R E E M E N T

THIS AGREEMENT, entered into this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 1967, by and between the BEACH, FLORIDA, a municipal corporation organized under the laws of Florida, whose post office address is c/o City Hall, \_\_\_\_\_, Florida, hereinafter designated as "City", and the COUNTY OF PALM BEACH, a political subdivision in the State of Florida, whose post office address is Palm Beach County Courthouse, West Palm Beach, Florida, hereinafter ~~designated~~ as "County";

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, the "City" has under its control and jurisdiction the public library in the City of West Palm Beach, Palm Beach County, Florida, and

WHEREAS, the "County" is desirous of providing free library service to

- (1) all residents in Palm Beach County residing outside the corporate limits of a municipality, and
- (2) all residents in Palm Beach County residing within the corporate limits of a municipality which does not use ad valorem tax money for library purposes, and
- (3) all residents in Palm Beach County residing within the corporate limits of any municipality in Palm Beach County which currently uses ad valorem taxes for library purposes but which elects to discontinue such municipal taxes and to have



(4) all residents of Palm Beach County residing  
within the corporate limits of any municipality in Palm Beach  
County which does use ad valorem taxes for library purposes and  
which has entered into an agreement with the County in form  
and substance as set forth herein, and

WHEREAS, the "County" is desirous of providing free  
library service more specifically to the residents of Palm Beach  
County residing in the City of \_\_\_\_\_ and to those  
residents of Palm Beach County residing within the environs  
of the City of West Palm Beach, Florida, and

WHEREAS, the "County" desires to avail itself of the  
services and facilities of the \_\_\_\_\_ Library to  
augment its services and facilities;

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the premises and  
of the mutual covenants and conditions hereinafter set forth,  
the parties hereto agree as follows:

1. The "City" shall, for a period of one year, com-  
mencing October 1, 1967, provide free library service and free use  
of the \_\_\_\_\_ Library facilities to

(1) all residents in Palm Beach County residing  
outside the corporate limits of a municipality, and

(2) All residents in Palm Beach County residing  
within the corporate limits of a municipality which does not  
use ad valorem tax money for library purposes, and

(3) all residents in Palm Beach County residing

its residents taxed by the "County" for County library service,  
and

(4) all residents of Palm Beach County residing within the corporate limits of any municipality in Palm Beach County which does use ad valorem taxes for library purposes and which has entered into an agreement with the "County" in form and substance as set forth herein,

in the same manner and under the same rules and regulations applying to the residents of the City of West Palm Beach. The "City" shall, during the period of this contract, keep the "City" library open for a minimum of thirty hours per week and it shall appropriate and spend from the "City" budget a sum equal to One Dollar per person for all persons residing within the limits of the City of West Palm Beach, or shall appropriate and spend a sum equal to .25 mills tax on the taxable value of the property in the City of West Palm Beach as determined by the City Tax Roll, whichever sum is less.

2. The books and materials of the "City" shall remain the property of the "City" which shall have complete authority in operating its library subject only to the free use of its facilities as set forth herein.

3. An annual report of the "City" library operation shall be furnished to the "County" which report shall indicate the services provided and the use of funds provided by the "County" for the services contracted for in this agreement.

previous fiscal year of the "City", which sum shall be paid to the "City" in twelve equal monthly installments beginning October 1, 1967. All monies paid by the "County" to the "City" under this agreement shall be used by the "City" solely for library purposes within the City.

5. The "County" may, upon request of the "City", purchase and process library materials for the "City". The cost of this service is to be the actual cost of the materials to the "County". Payment shall be made by the "City" to the "County" upon presentation of the bill for this service by the "County", and the library materials so purchased and processed shall be the property of the "City".

6. No provision of the contract shall prevent the acceptance of any other funds for the further development of library services within the County of Palm Beach, Florida.

ATTEST:

, FLORIDA

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

By \_\_\_\_\_

Mayor

ATTEST:

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF  
PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk of the Circuit Court

By \_\_\_\_\_

Chairman

of Palm Beach County, Florida

1-18-67 *millage based on city's valuation*

PALM BEACH COUNTY LIBRARIES as of 1-1-67

City	Population (1)	Taxable Value - City -	Per Capita Lib. Support	Library Millage	\$ Tax Support	
Belle Glade	15,000	30,401,700.	\$ <i>not</i> ✓ .79	.3995	\$ 12,150.	*
Boca Raton	22,600 <i>20,000</i>	231,732,000.	✓ .87	.084	19,500.	
Boynton Beach	15,200	61,984,695.	✓ 1.16	.285	17,663.	
Delray Beach	16,400	71,946,900.	✓ 3.13	.712	51,344.	
Greenacres	1,500	2,664,590.	✓ .52	.29	773.	+
Lake Park	6,200	22,695,698.	.65	.176	4,000.	*
Lake Worth	24,000	90,310,070.	✓ 2.47	.656	59,300.	
Lantana	6,300	33,965,850.	.016	.003	100.	
North Palm Beach	8,900	47,896,220.	✓ 1.05	.197	9,361.	
Pahokee	5,600	10,118,653.	✓ .64	.355	3,600.	*
Palm Beach	10,200	109,536,775.	✓ 1.18	.11	12,000.	
Palm Springs	3,000	12,334,390.	.17	.040	500.	+
Riviera Beach	21,000	105,724,350.	✓ 1.24	.245	25,967.50	*
West Palm Beach	63,200	237,054,000.	✓ 1.72	.46	109,948.	*
Total Served	219,100	1,068,366,491.	Ave. 1.48		326,206.50	
Not served	105,900					

Total Population 325,000

	Taxable Value - County -	Per Capita Total Exp.	Total \$ Support	Add to above
Belle Glade	31,363,150.			
Boca Raton	234,965,527.			
Boynton Beach	70,079,610.			
Delray Beach	118,966,000.	3.50	57,344.	6,000.
Greenacres	2,688,550.			
Lake Park	30,594,540.	.82	5,100.	1,100.
Lake Worth	107,571,130.			
Lantana	23,639,110.	.048	300.	200.
North Palm Beach	47,656,110.	1.17	10,500.	1,139.
Pahokee	12,726,380.			
Palm Beach	287,103,790.	2.60	26,500.	14,500.
Palm Springs	11,170,690.			
Riviera Beach	87,686,580.			
West Palm Beach	310,010,980.			
	1,331,222,147.	Total spent <i>1.59</i> .....		349,145.50
Pal. Inc. Area	226,916,220.			
Unincorp. Area	821,861,830.			
Total County Valuation	2,430,000,197.			

(1) Population to nearest 100. Highest of 1965 or 1966 used.

\* Building maintenance, grounds maintenance & insurance paid out of general fund and not charged directly to Library.

+ Figures as of 12-31-65 used.

Valuation of Incorporated Area having no Library plus Unincorporated Area is \$1,048,778,050. 1/4 of a mill would raise \$262,194.51

1-18-67

BUDGET FOR COUNTY LIBRARY  
PALM BEACH COUNTY

This budget is prepared on certain base assumptions which were essential in order to be able to put together figures for consideration. It is possible that hired administrative personnel will recommend changes for board approval, and any improvement should certainly be welcomed.

Certainly our main objective should be to bring library service to the largest number of unserved people in the county as quickly as possible. In this vein, the budget is keyed to these two things immediately:

- 1) A contractual arrangement with certain existing municipal libraries to serve people in unincorporated areas immediately adjacent to the municipalities. (We believe that temporarily books would have to be returned to the library from which it was borrowed.)
- 2) Attempt to arrange with our school system to have school libraries in certain critical areas kept open additional hours and if necessary, pay the school libraries to do so. ~~This possibly would be for children only, but could temporarily fill a need in certain areas.~~

Then to:

- 3) Secure warehouse space to be used as a distribution point. This to take care of an eighty to one hundred thousand book stock and include the offices of the County Librarian and staff.
- 4) Set up in certain strategic Regional Shopping Sections, located in unincorporated areas or in municipalities choosing to come into the County Library plan, library service stations having some reference books, magazines, and some other books, but also a complete card catalogue of the County library books so one could use the catalogue to find what he wished, order from the attendant, who would phone to the central warehouse for delivery the following day.
- 5) Use, if strategically located, existing facilities of any municipality wishing to come entirely into the County plan.



## INCOME FIGURES - Comments

The estimated income for the 1st year is based on 1/4 mill times the taxable valuations of property in unincorporated areas of Palm Beach County and in those municipalities that do not now in any amount support or provide funds for a public library. From this is deducted the average shrinkage encountered by the tax collector.

Each 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th years are increased by 10% over the previous year's tax base.

We are in these figures assuming no State or Federal aid. In other words, these figures assume that we stand on our own. If our plan of Federation with a sufficient number of municipalities having libraries succeeds, we can become eligible for certain funds which conceivably would advance our program to the extent of such funds.

## EXPENSE FIGURES - Comments

First year - 1/4 mill

Establish a paid Temporary Committee made up of the three qualified Librarians now in our County. This committee is to start the ball rolling immediately. Obtain warehouse, order books, order equipment, help in hiring a Head Librarian, during first 3 month's period. The Head Librarian is to proceed with preliminary survey and presentation of greatest need areas, and then at mid-year effect initial plans.

Second year - 1/4 mill

Follow through with first year plans and with a \$10,000 fund for architects' fees or surveys, make future plans, possibly for erection of a strategically located library.

Third year - 3/8 mill

Book stock to grow to 70,000 volumes during year and hopefully a Branch Library building would be constructed with the \$99,000 set out. Operating expenses attempt to reflect the additional staff and expenses involved. Other conclusions might be arrived at for use of Capital Fund by the board as a result of the Administrative Head Librarian's survey and recommendations.

Fourth year - 3/8 mill

Much as the third year. Hopefully another branch building could be erected or a bookmobile added with the additional Capital Fund.

Fifth year - 1/2 mill

Here again, because of expansion, operating costs will have increased. Thus the increased millage is imperative.

# 5 Year Budget - COUNTY LIBRARY *(1825-27)*

INCOME from unincorporated areas & municipalities  
not supporting Libraries

1st Year - 1/4 Mill  
\$250,000.

2nd Year - 1/4 Mill  
\$274,000.

## EXPENSES:

Salaries:	Temp. Comm. fee basis \$350 ea X 3 - 6 mos.	\$ 6,300.00		
	Head Librarian 6 mos.	6,000.00		12,000.00
	Asst. Librarian 6 mos.	3,750.00		7,500.00
	Secretary 12 mos.	4,500.00		4,500.00
	Other 6 mos.	4,000.00	24,550.00	10,500.00
	Books & Processing (1st yr 30M books)		108,000.00	(20M bks) 88,000.00
	Rent - Warehouse 7500 sq ft x 75¢ 9 mos.		4,200.00	5,625.00
	Utilities 9 mos.		4,000.00	8,000.00
	Building Maintenance 6 mos.		3,000.00	6,000.00
	Insurance, including branches 12 mos.		1,000.00	1,000.00
Equipment & Supplies:				
	Book shelves 20 x \$300. (1800 books ea=36M)	6,000.00		6,000.00
	Catalogue Drawers (300 X 4 + \$150)(15 dr. \$300)	1,350.00		1,350.00
	Typewriter	600.00		-0-
	Adding Machine	200.00		-0-
	Duplicating Machine	1,000.00		-0-
	Office Furniture	1,000.00		350.00
	Filing Cabinets - 2	250.00		(1) 125.00
	Misc. Supplies	1,200.00	11,600.00	2,400.00
	Automotive Equipment - Including Interior	3,500.00		-0-
	Operation - 10% per mi inc. insurance 6 mos.	2,600.00	6,100.00	5,200.00
	Dues & subscriptions		1,000.00	1,000.00
	Travel & Convention		500.00	750.00
	Auditing Fees		500.00	1,200.00
	Postage		300.00	450.00
Branches (4	Salaries 6 mos.	8,000.00		16,000.00
	Rent	3,600.00		7,200.00
	Book Shelves	2,400.00		2,400.00
	Desk & chair	1,000.00		-0-
	Tables & chairs	2,000.00		2,000.00
	Charging Machines 4 X \$50.	200.00		400.00
	Catalogue Drawers 4 X \$1350.	5,400.00	22,600.00	5,400.00
	Federated Libraries servicing outlying areas		53,000.00	60,000.00
	Supplementing School Library Salaries in certain schools		7,000.00	7,250.00
	Contingencies		2,650.00	1,400.00
	Building Construction (capital outlay)		-0-	(Arch. Fees) 10,000.00
			\$ 250,000.00	\$ 4,000.00

# 5 Year Budget COUNTY LIBRARY

3rd Year - 3/8 Mill  
452,000.

4th Year - 3/8 Mill  
496,000.

5th Year - 1/2 Mill  
729,000.00

12,000.00  
7,500.00  
5,000.00  
19,000.00  
(20M bks)

43,500.00  
93,000.00  
5,625.00  
8,000.00  
6,000.00  
1,200.00

15,000.00  
9,500.00  
5,500.00  
21,000.00  
(20M bks)

51,000.00  
103,000.00  
5,625.00  
8,000.00  
6,000.00  
1,800.00

15,000.00  
10,000.00  
5,500.00  
25,000.00  
(40M bks)

55,500.00  
220,000.00  
5,625.00  
8,000.00  
7,000.00  
2,800.00

(14) 4,000.00

1,350.00  
600.00  
-0-  
-0-  
700.00  
125.00

(7)

3,000.00  
1,350.00  
600.00  
250.00  
-0-  
-0-  
-0-  
-0-

(7)

2,000.00  
2,000.00  
-0-  
-0-  
-0-  
-0-  
-0-  
-0-

(2) 3,500.00

10,400.00  
3,500.00  
125.00

10,375.00

15,900.00  
1,000.00  
750.00  
1,500.00  
600.00

4,000.00  
-0-  
10,400.00  
-0-  
-0-  
-0-  
-0-  
-0-

8,200.00

(trade in)

5,000.00  
4,500.00  
10,400.00  
-0-  
-0-  
-0-  
-0-  
-0-

10,000.00  
14,900.00  
1,500.00  
1,200.00  
1,750.00  
900.00

36,000.00  
7,200.00  
20,000.00  
1,000.00  
10,000.00  
600.00  
5,400.00

90,200.00 \*

66,000.00

10,000.00

4,350.00

99,000.00

452,000.00

56,000.00  
7,200.00  
20,000.00  
1,000.00  
10,000.00  
700.00  
5,400.00

100,300.00 \*

72,000.00

10,000.00

6,275.00

94,000.00

96,000.00

76,000.00  
10,000.00  
40,000.00  
2,500.00  
25,000.00  
1,000.00  
10,800.00

165,200.00 \*

20,000.00

12,500.00

13,025.00

113,000.00

729,000.00

\* Increase contingent upon capital outlay expenditures shown below.



## OFFICERS:

## CHAIRMAN:

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## PALM BEACH COUNTY

## LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

February 7, 1967

## MEMBERS:

MRS. A. J. VANBERKUM  
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MRS. F. H. POTEETE  
PANORAMA  
LARRY ROYAL  
BELLE GLADE

A special meeting of the Palm Beach County Library Advisory Committee with the County Commissioners was called to order by the County Commission Chairman, Mr. E. F. Van Kessel, on Tuesday, February 7, 1967, at 8:05 p.m. in the County Commissioners Room of the Courthouse.

Mr. Van Kessel welcomed our Committee members and expressed appreciation for their donation of time and service. Commissioners Van Kessel, Warren, Bondlow and Gaynor were present. Only Commissioner Weaver was absent. Members of the PBLAC present were Mrs. Eckler, Mr. Gildan, Mrs. Rush, Mr. Speicher, Mrs. Thompson, Mrs. Nye, Miss Shannon, Mr. Munnings, Mrs. Leviton, Mrs. Taffel and Mrs. Larrick. Those absent were Mr. Opel, Mrs. Poteete, Mr. Nolan and Mr. Royal. There were also six people in the audience.

Mrs. Eckler thanked the Commissioners for meeting with us and introduced the members of the Committee by districts. Then Mrs. Eckler presented a five-page report of the Library Advisory Committee to the Board of County Commissioners (see copy attached to these minutes).

The Vice Chairman, Mr. Herbert Gildan, explained the contractual agreement proposed by our committee. The idea is that those cities presently contributing money to library service would not be taxed but everyone else would be taxed either \$1 per capita or .025 mills whichever is less. Under the new system the member libraries would be open a minimum of 30 hours per week.

Comm. Van Kessel: If a city refuses to participate, can we legally force them to do this? Answer by Mr. Gildan: No.

Comm. Warren asked about money for library books.

Mrs. Leviton: A committee will check supplies. Additional books are accessible to to any library in the system.

Mr. Gildan reported that he sent a copy of the agreement to Mr. Henry Lillienthal, County Attorney, but received no reply.

Comm. Van Kessel suggested that Mr. Gildan submit the same proposal to our present County Attorney, Mr. Bruce Jones. Mr. Gildan agreed to do this tomorrow.

Mrs. Eckler: We are not proposing a big fancy library building. We are proposing a service that will service the existing libraries plus additional facilities (warehouse type). We will have to have a county administrator there.

Mr. Speicher distributed budget for Palm Beach County Library system (see copy attached) showing income and expense figures.

Mr. Gildan: We are trying to give you a five year plan to give you an idea of what it might cost. The purpose is to make available and distribute books to as many people as possible at the lowest cost possible.

Comm. Van Kessel: We can't commit ourselves to a five year plan.

PALM BEACH COUNTY  
LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## OFFICERS:

## CHAIRMAN:

MRS. W. E. ECKLER  
BOX 183  
DELRAY BEACH, FLORIDA

## VICE CHAIRMAN:

HERBERT L. GILDAN  
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MRS. LAWRENCE R. LEVITON  
PALM BEACH  
MRS. CHARLES TAFFEL  
PALM SPRINGS  
MRS. LESLIE G. THOMPSON  
LAKE WORTH  
PAUL SPEICHER  
DELRAY BEACH  
WILLIAM F. MITCHELL  
BOCA RATON  
MRS. MILDRED LARRICK  
LAKE HARBOR  
MRS. F. H. POTEETE  
PAHOKEE  
LARRY ROYAL  
BELLE GLADE

Mr. Gildan: I will be happy to give Mr. Bruce Jones, County Attorney, a copy of an enabling act. We think the county should inaugurate a county library system. We want to provide you with the best system we could think of. We think a system is needed and if you buy this system, you would appoint a new 15 man board.

Comm. Van Kessel: The first hurdle was double taxation. Now I don't see how anybody could object to this. If a municipality does not choose to join the county library system, how would they get library books?

Mrs. Eckler: Anybody who is a resident of the county could use library service but there would still be a non resident or tourist tax.

Mr. Gaynor: How did you arrive at  $\frac{1}{4}$  mill figure? Was it a consensus?

Mr. Gildan: .025 mills or \$1 per capita is the lowest common denominator that would be fairest to everybody.

Mrs. Eckler: We hope that cities will increase what they are putting in.

Mr. Speicher: We would not contract with a municipality if they had only 5 books.

Mr. Gildan: We are one of the last counties to get into a county-wide library system.

Mr. Speicher: This plan still gives municipalities autonomy in the library field. They don't have to join the library system but we believe they will.

Mr. Gaynor: How much matched funds are available?

Mrs. Eckler: We cannot give you that figures. There is money available for construction grants. We should be eligible for \$50,000 (if the state had appropriated it). These funds are available for two years.

Comm. Van Kessel: We ought to try our utmost to see what our legislative delegation will do to see what kind of matching funds the state will give.

Mr. Gildan: The state funds we are talking about are state funds coming from federal funds.

Mrs. Taffel: If 75% of the population join, our only problem is that the state legislature appropriate the money.

Mrs. Eckler: We would have to stipulate libraries would be open 40 hours a week, stipulation as to projected plans, audits and presentation of year-end figures.

Mrs. Leviton: The initial plan was that we should have some kind of county library system regardless of state or federal funds. The national policy is that a county recommend a county library system started for the betterment of this county.

Comm. Warren: Does this require a referendum?

Mrs. Eckler and Mr. Gildan: It does not require a referendum.

Mrs. Eckler: We have not approached any of these 14 libraries. We wanted your reaction. We would want to follow through on this. Do we have your sanction to approach these city libraries?

Comm. Van Kessel: In behalf of the fact that we do not have a full board present, we should clear with our attorney and to protect our committee. I think we should



## OFFICERS:

## CHAIRMAN:

MRS. W. E. ECKLER  
BOX 193  
DELRAY BEACH, FLORIDA

## VICE CHAIRMAN:

HERBERT L. GILDAN  
ROOM 1015 HARVEY BLOD  
WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA

## SECRETARY:

MRS. ALAN S. RUSH  
812 FLAMINGO DRIVE  
WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA

PALM BEACH COUNTY  
LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## MEMBERS:

MRS. A. J. VANBERKUM  
KENNETH NOLEN  
MISS MAMIE T. SHANNON  
CHARLES MUNNINGS  
WEST PALM BEACH  
MRS. LAWRENCE R. LEVITON  
PALM BEACH  
MRS. CHARLES TAFFEL  
PALM SPRINGS  
MRS. LESLIE G. THOMPSON  
LAKE WORTH  
PAUL SPEICHER  
DELRAY BEACH  
WILLIAM F. MITCHELL  
BOCA RATON  
MRS. MILDRED LARRICK  
LAKE HARBOR  
MRS. F. H. POTEETE  
PAHOKEE  
LARRY ROYAL  
BEALE GLADE

Mr. Gildan: Shall we approach the legislative delegation if the County Commission goes along with us?

Comm. Van Kessel: The hearing is next Monday. One of you can bring this to the delegation. I think the delegation will be receptive to this facility. Possibly there should be a presentation in not so much detail. The County Commission shows an interest and will look for support from the state.

Mr. Gildan: The Legislative Clinic will be in Delray Beach on Monday morning and here in the afternoon.

Mrs. Eckler: We want our delegation to know we are concerned about the library and total budget.

Comm. Van Kessel: Get your people that do have libraries to lobby to get more state money.

Mr. Gildan: Virtually all major counties have a county library system. We should ask the delegation to increase appropriations.

Comm. Gaynor: Thanked the Palm Beach County Library Advisory Committee for doing such a fine comprehensive job.

Comm. Van Kessel: Suggested Mrs. Eckler give same presentation to delegation. (12 minutes will be allowed her for it.)

Mrs. Gildan: Are we going to meet when we hear from County Commission Chairman Van Kessel? We will know if we will meet in March or set up groups to visit with several different libraries.

Mrs. Eckler: We want to be on firm ground. If it is the committee's wish for me to make the same presentation, I will do so.

Comm. Van Kessel: Suggested that the County Commission be present at the Legislative Clinic on Monday, February 13, 1967, at 2 p.m. here in the County Commission chambers.

As there was no further business, Commissioner Van Kessel adjourned the meeting at 9:45 p.m.

*Reine Rush*

Reine Rush (Mrs. Alan S. Rush)  
Secretary

February 7, 1967

REPORT OF LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

May I first of all on behalf of the members of the Library Advisory Committee thank you for giving up an evening in order to meet with us and hear our report. We realize that you have many meetings to attend and do appreciate your giving us this time.

It is always helpful to know to whom you are speaking and I would like, therefore, at this time to introduce the members of the committee who are present and thank them for coming.

Before getting into the report I would like to make a few personal observations. When Mr. Warren asked me to serve on this committee, I accepted in the sure knowledge that it was going to be a difficult task. I knew that the experience of the members of the committee would have a great bearing on how we would work. An understanding of the administrative end is quite different from knowing libraries only as a user.

The members of the committee did have all degrees of varying experience, ideas and expectations. We have all expressed ourselves very freely and openly. Occasionally we would come to an impasse. At such times we would go on to some other question and each of us would

read, think and seerch our souls about the problem that at the time seemed to have no solution. All of them when they have been discussed at a future time have been solved. I would like at this time to publicly thank all the members of the committees for their courtesy to one another, their willingness and cooperation at all times but especially for their courtesy and patience with me. It has been an honor and pleasure to serve as chairman. I feel confident that the members will continue to give the time, thought and energy to completing the job ahead just as they have in arriving at this point.

You will recall that the committee was organized late in November, 1965. We held our next meeting in January, 1966, in the West Palm Beach Library. We have held another meeting there. The other meetings have been held in the libraries in Belle Glade, North Palm Beach, Riviera Beach, Lake Worth, Boynton Beach, Delray Beach, and Boca Raton. This has given us an idea of what we have in the county to some little degree and was a part of the self-education program upon which we embarked. In many instances the head librarian, some of the staff, and some if not all the members of the local library board attended the meeting. This gave them some idea of the magnitude of our problem and, I feel, showed them that we were not making any snap judgments but were considering every problem from every possible angle.

On the committee, also, we have had every shade of political thinking represented. We have, I believe, been able to satisfy all of them - maybe not all 100% but we have a plan with which they can all agree. After each meeting detailed minutes were sent to all members so that in those instances when a member was not present, he had the opportunity to be informed of what transpired. Members have felt free to call on someone who was present if they had some question. I regret that we have not had full attendance at all meetings but the majority of the committee members have attended the majority of the meetings.



We have sought and received assistance from the extension service of the Florida State Library as well as from several Florida counties which have established county library systems. There is no place where we could go for information since the whole idea of library service on the larger level is a comparatively new concept. The American Library Association is studying the development but nothing has been published yet. We have had to rely upon our librarians giving us articles, etc. as they appear in the ALA Journal and elsewhere.

One thing about which there has been no argument is the value of library service. We are all aware of the fact that when a firm is contemplating moving into an area, they look at housing, schools, hospitals, churches and libraries, as well as those things that are vital to their own particular activity. When a family moves into an area of its own choice, they look at these same things and the library is going to be higher on the list when the family has a real concern for education. What has happened just in the past week in Pahokee is proof of this. U. S. Sugar obviously realizes the value of a library to a community and to its own people to make a gift for an ~~approximately~~ \$80,000. building. They have done the same thing in Clewiston. I think this speaks for itself.

Today with costs going up in the library field as in everything coupled with the extreme shortage of professional librarians it is increasingly more necessary to work with the larger unit. A small community cannot afford to maintain the kind of library service which is really required. We do not foresee that even with a county system that we could meet very technical needs. These are extremely expensive and of limited demand but we could satisfy the needs of the families of those men as well as their own recreational needs.

May I give you this chart which shows what we have in Polk  
Peach County as of January 1, 1967. You will see that we have 14  
municipal libraries which are serving 217,100 people, leaving 107,000  
with no library service. There is a total of \$329,971 budgeted for  
1966-67 of tax funds by these municipalities which represents an average  
per capita expenditure of \$1.52. There are \$22,939. additional spent by  
these libraries which comes from gifts, association activities, non-  
resident fees, etc. This brings the total spent to \$352,910. or \$1.63  
per capita for those served. You will note that in several instances  
the cost of building and grounds maintenance together with insurance is  
paid from the general fund and not charged directly to the library which  
means that a little more than this is actually spent but these figures  
are not really imperative for our purposes so we did not ask that they  
be gotten. You will notice that the per capita expenditure ranges from  
just under 5¢ to \$3.50 based on total budget figures.

In the matter of millage for library service it ranges from  
.003 to .712. To arrive at this figure we have used the assessed value  
as set by the city and the tax funds used.

It was not very long after we had started working that we  
agreed that some sort of a county library system is necessary. There  
are many ways this could be done. The plan which we are offering you  
this evening is a federation of the existing libraries supplemented with  
county funds with contractual arrangements between the respective official  
bodies and the Board of County Commissioners. In this way we will take  
advantage of what is already in existence. There is a great deal of local  
pride in a library for which many have given of their time and substance  
and it is our desire to preserve this. With this arrangement there would  
be a 15 member advisory board appointed by the members of the Board of  
County Commissioners rather than a five member board appointed by the



Governor. We feel that considering the size of the county a 15 member board could better reflect the needs of the whole county.

The tax base which we propose is as follows: The unincorporated areas plus those incorporated municipalities not now supporting libraries with tax monies and any other incorporated areas which might choose to be taxed by the county for library purposes.

All present municipal libraries meeting minimum standards to be established will be encouraged to contract with the county.

It is understood that when we are serving 75% of the population, municipal libraries which are members of the county system as well as the county library system will be eligible for state library funds. However, even if we do not reach the 75% figure at the start, we are in favor of a county library system being established.

The Vice Chairman of our committee is a lawyer for which I have been very grateful. Anything we have considered has had to comply with Chapter 150 of the State Statutes otherwise it would necessitate a local bill being presented to the Legislature. He has been most helpful in this regard. Also, he has been in touch with county attorneys in other counties having a county library system which has proven most helpful. He will explain the contractual arrangement which we propose after which Mr. Speicher will present the suggested budget. Mr. Gildan.

February 13, 1967

REPORT TO LEGISLATIVE CLINIC:

I am Mrs. W. E. Eckler, Chairman of the Palm Beach County Library Advisory Committee and am appearing at the request of the members of the Board of County Commissioners.

In the Fall of 1965 the members of the Board of County Commissioners each appointed 3 members to this Advisory Committee for a total of 15 as the result of a public meeting which had been held in the early part of the summer. We were charged with determining the necessity for a county library system and, if found necessary, to present a feasible plan of operation and method of financing. The committee was organized in November, 1965 and held its first working meeting in January, 1966. As part of the self-education program upon which we embarked, the committee met in the various municipal libraries in the county.

We have met as a committee of the whole and have also met in sub-committees. We have sought and received assistance from the ~~exam~~ extension service of the Florida State Library as well as from several counties in Florida which have established county library systems.

We have people of all degrees of varying experience, ideas and expectations as well as every shade of political thinking represented on the committee. One thing about which there has been no argument is the value of library service. It is a known fact that when a firm or a family is contemplating an area, it looks at housing, schools, hospitals, churches and libraries. Today with costs going up in the library field as in everything coupled with the extreme shortage of professional librarians it is increasingly more necessary to work with the larger unit. A small community cannot afford to maintain the kind of library service which is really required.

In Palm Beach County we have 14 municipal libraries which serve 217,100 people leaving 107,900 with no library service. The total budgeted for 1966-67 including gifts, etc. is \$352,910. or \$1.63 per capita for those served. The per capita expenditure ranges from just under 5¢ to \$3.50 based on total budget figures.

It was not very long after we had started working that we agreed that some sort of a county library system is necessary. There are many ways this could be done. The plan which we have offered to the Board of County Commissioners is a federation of the existing libraries supplemented with county funds with contractual arrangements between the respective official bodies and the Board of County Commissioners. In this way we will take advantage of what is already in existence. There is a great deal of local pride in a library for which many have given of their time and substance and it is our desire to preserve this.

The tax base which we propose is as follows: The unincorporated areas plus those incorporated municipalities not now supporting libraries with tax monies and any other incorporated areas which might choose to be taxed by the county for library purposes.

All present municipal libraries meeting minimum standards to be established will be encouraged to contract with the county.

It is understood that when we are serving 75% of the population, municipal libraries which are members of the county system as well as the county library system will be eligible for state library funds.

This brings me to the reason for appearing before you today. Generally speaking, everyone wants good library service and does not deny its value. We find that the Legislature will authorize large amounts but <sup>will</sup> appropriate only a very small part of that amount.

We would respectfully suggest that you gentlemen lend your weight and influence to securing a more adequate appropriation. We would also suggest that you join forces with delegations whose counties are facing the same needs. Additional assistance to get started would certainly be a long step forward. Florida is quite far down the list in what it is doing in this field and with the projected growth it becomes imperative to take the necessary steps now.

Your favorable consideration of this matter will be greatly appreciated.



May 17, 1967

The regular meeting of the Palm Beach <sup>County</sup> Library Advisory Committee was called to order by the Chairman, Mrs. W. E. Eckler, on Wednesday, May 17, 1967 at 8:20 p.m. in the Board Room of the West Palm Beach Public Library.

Members present were: Mrs. Eckler, Mr. Gildan, Mrs. Rush, Mrs. Nye, Mrs. Leslie Thompson, Mr. Speicher, Mrs. Taffel and Mrs. Larrick.

Members absent were: Mrs. Leviton, Mr. Nolen, Miss Shannon, Mr. Munnings, Mr. Opel, Mr. Royal and Mrs. Poteete.

Miss Zella Adams, head librarian of the West Palm Beach Library, also attended the meeting.

Mrs. Taffel reported that she had set up a meeting for Mrs. Eckler with the Palm Springs and Greenacres Library Boards.

This is our first meeting since February 7. After clearing with the County Commissioners, Mrs. Eckler reported on meetings with the Library Boards as follows: April 12 - West Palm Beach Library Board; April 27 - meeting with representatives from Lake Park, Riviera Beach and North Palm Beach Library Boards. Last week there was a meeting with the Delray Beach Library Board. A meeting with the Boynton Beach Library Board is scheduled for Wednesday, May 24, at 1 p.m.

There was some difficulty in arranging a meeting with the Lantana Board. Mrs. Eckler will write to Mrs. Reid, the new President of the Lantana Library Board, saying that we are having these meetings at the behest of the County Commission.

The West Palm Beach Library Board would like to talk it over among themselves. If there are any questions on finances — it will be suggested that Mr. R. D. Hill, Board Chairman, call Mr. Speicher.

Miss Zella Adams talked to Mr. Gannon and he seemed in favor of a County Library system. Miss Adams was asked if this County Commission passed it, suppose the succeeding Commission did not appropriate the money for it. She replied, "It is possible but not probable."

Mrs. Eckler As a result of our meetings in the north end of the county, Mr. Huber wrote a letter to the City Council of Riviera Beach recommending the county library system. The City Council has appointed a new board and Mrs. Nye will serve on it.

Mr. Gildan: Lake Park passed a motion to join the County Library system. West Palm Beach also said they would like to join the County system.

Mrs. Eckler: Read a letter from Mr. Ward Robinson, President of the Delray Beach Library Board, thanking her for her presentation to their board. He expressed support for the county library program and its objectives.

Reception has been favorable. These boards have asked questions. We would like them to get with their city commissions.



Miss Zella Adams: A library board cannot make a contract except in Delray Beach. The city makes the contracts. Once the libraries join they must be free libraries.

Mrs. Thompson: Will try to set up a meeting with the Lake Worth Library Board and the City Commissioners.

Mrs. Eckler: Has talked to Mr. Opel about Boca Raton. They are in a state of flux. Instead of an Association running the library it has been turned over to a City Board. Mrs. Eckler will contact Mr. Opel again.

Mrs. Eckler would like to have a meeting with the Library Boards of Belle Glade and Pahokee. Mrs. Larrick mentioned the new library in Belle Glade.

Mr. Speicher: This plan definitely retains autonomy of individual library. Whatever federal money comes into this is handled through the state.

Miss Zella Adams: If this legislation passes, could this money go in this year's county budget?

Mrs. Eckler and Mr. Gildan: This is what we are aiming at. They have set a July 1st deadline.

Mrs. Nye: Please refresh my memory. We said we thought a county library system should be established but not contingent upon outside funds.

Mrs. Eckler: read excerpts from her presentation made to the County Commission. She showed a copy of a contract (300 copies were mimeographed at county expense).

Mr. Gildan: All Lake Park Board members thought county library system was fine.

Mrs. Thompson: One question may be how it works in other counties.

Mr. Gildan: In regard to special taxing district legislation, he got in touch with Bruce Jones, county attorney, and then county commissioners.

Mrs. Eckler: Thinks this is a law which could have been on the books long ago except where libraries were concerned. They said it is permissive not mandatory to set up a taxing district -- 10% must sign petition. Every district would spend funds with district -- no way to be federated.

Our enabling act was sent to the legislature with the County Commission backing it. All five commissioners thought they should keep libraries in districting bill. How would we get 10% of 107,000 people to sign a petition? They said, "Don't worry about it!"

BUDGET -- When County went on 100% assessment all agencies had to reduce millage for three year period. They cannot increase their budget by more than 3% -- faced with increase in salaries -- approximately \$15,000 -- 10% millage cannot be

increased over 3% per year -- county millage 4.039. Mr. Warren quoted \$2,000,000 -- what one mill would raise. We are concerned with portions. We are going in there asking for  $\frac{1}{2}$  of what they are permitted to raise



Mr. Speicher: Absolute minimum would be our commitment to these contractual agreements — 15% of those libraries who agreed to this — if all cities come in and don't raise or lower their budget.

Mrs. Eckler: told Mr. George Warren on phone tonight — there is a point beyond which we are doing something economically sound. If we cut the budget, we would cut service to people concerned. Cut warehouse space in half; two stations instead of four. We figure 325,000 population.

Miss Zella Adams: One-third of county is children. West Palm Beach Library Board is worried about administration.

Mrs. Eckler: Each library is autonomous. The rules that pertain to a particular library will remain. County system libraries must be open 30 hours a week and open to all citizens.

Mr. Gildan: Chop the budget. Have two instead of four branches. Lantana and Jupiter will form their own local libraries. They might want to raise 5,500. A group of interested citizens would augment. We supply books. Basically they furnish physical plants. \$150,000 is our maximum.

Mr. Speicher: Go it a lot slower. Have to set up an organization and get books.

Miss Zella Adams: One library in county will be hit hardest. 49% of the children using this library do not live in this city. We had to raise our non-resident fee to \$2.00. Last year's budget was \$109,000. This year we are asking for \$146,000. Non-resident fees — \$5,000 a year.

Mr. Speicher: Children's use of books dropped off — figure partly due to better school libraries.

Mrs. Eckler: One thing I will fight for — 15% to the libraries.

Mr. Gildan: County Commission wants a substantial cut but prepared to fight for \$200,000 than if we are cut to \$150,000.

Mr. Speicher: We will have to try. Does not think we can figure this out tonight. That comes later.

Miss Zella Adams: You have to have the personnel especially a County Library Admin. You have \$150,000. Let him tell you what might be done. Will have to have 15% for the cities.

Mr. Speicher: Thinks we should try for \$200,000 and if we are cut to \$150,000, see what can be done. All libraries say they were underfinanced at the start.

Mr. Gildan: See how many cities will come in and let County Commission know. Based on monies spent during last fiscal year.

Miss Zella Adams: After you get most of these cities, write a letter to the Library Board of the Society of the Four Arts saying what has been done and asking if they would be interested in hearing more about county library system. It would have to be free service. If you don't hear from them, ignore it.

Mrs. Eckler: "American Library Assn. Minimum Standards for Public Library Systems



for 1966" at \$1.50 per copy may be ordered from the American Library Assn.  
It contains no budgets for reference.

Upon motion by Mr. Speicher the meeting was adjourned at 10:05 p.m.

*Reine Rush*

Reine Rush (Mrs. Alan S.)

Secretary

LAKE WORTH PUBLIC LIBRARY

Lake Worth, Florida

June 27, 1967

Lake Worth City Commission  
City Hall  
Lake Worth, Florida 33460

Gentlemen:

This letter contains the recommendations of the Lake Worth Library Board in connection with the proposed county library system.

On Wednesday, June 21, 1967, Mrs. W. E. Eckler, Mr. Herbert L. Gildan, and Mr. Paul Speicher, representatives of the committee appointed by the Palm Beach County Commission to determine the feasibility of, and, if feasible, to set up, a county library system, appeared before representatives of the Lake Worth City Commission and the Lake Worth Library Board to discuss the plan and request that the Lake Worth Library join in the county federation. At the conclusion of this discussion, the City Commission requested the Library Board to study the plan and then to meet with the City Commission to discuss the county library system and make recommendations in connection therewith.

Briefly and generally, the county library plan is as follows: The County Commission would authorize the establishment of a county library which would be in the general nature of a federation of existing municipal libraries plus a superimposed county facility. Each municipal library that joined would retain its control over its own library and would basically continue to operate in the same manner as it now operates except that it would issue library cards as follows: (1) to all residents of Palm Beach County not residing in a corporate area; (2) to all residents of Palm Beach County living within the corporate limits of a municipality who did not support its library through ad valorem taxation; (3) to all residents of Palm Beach County who reside within the corporate limits of a municipality who, while presently supporting a library by ad valorem taxes, would elect to discontinue such support; and (4) to all residents of Palm Beach County residing within the corporate limits of a municipality which does support its library through ad valorem taxes but which joins the county federation. All card holders would be subject to the rules and regulations of the local library in the same manner as they are now, subject, of course, to these limitations. The proposed agreement by which the city would enter into an agreement with Palm Beach County imposes only the limitations set forth above. There are other features of the plan which would presumably be based upon a voluntary basis and on the spirit of cooperation between existing libraries in the county. These would include the mutual lending of books between libraries, lending of books to the individual libraries by the county stock room, purchasing by the county on behalf of the municipal libraries, and many other services and features too numerous and involved to be stated in this letter. In return for this concession in behalf of the city, the county would pay to the city annually an amount equal to fifteen per cent of the money expended by the city in support of its library.



At the present time, cards entitling one to use the Lake Worth Library are issued free of charge to all residents of Lake Worth who are real property owners. If an applicant states that he is a property owner in Lake Worth, this statement is accepted as correct and a card is issued without charge. A resident of Lake Worth who is not a property owner stands in the same position as does a non-resident of Lake Worth who is not a property owner within the city. Cards are also issued free of charge to non-residents of Lake Worth if they own real property within the city. Cards are issued to those who do not qualify under the above free card system for \$1 per year.

In the last fiscal year of the Lake Worth Library, 1965-1966, the sum of \$2,264.50 was received on account of the issuance of library cards to those people who did not qualify for free cards. Last year Lake Worth spent \$59,300 in tax support of the Lake Worth Library. Fifteen per cent of this amount would be \$8,895.

While the county proposes to tax the unincorporated areas and residents of those cities that furnish no tax support for a library, the issuance of free cards is not necessarily on this basis. Whether a person is a taxpayer or not is immaterial. If he is a resident of one of the qualifying areas, he is entitled to a card. Should the City of Lake Worth go into the county system, it would appear illogical for the library to maintain its present basis for issuance of free cards. To do so would discriminate against a resident of Lake Worth who was not a property owner in favor of a non-resident of Lake Worth who was not a property owner in the county. It would therefore seem necessary to change the rules so that free cards would be granted to all residents of Lake Worth without regard as to whether they paid property taxes or not. Assuming this to be true, the loss to Lake Worth of revenues from the issuance of cards would not only include that revenue collected from non-residents who are not property owners but also from those residents who are not property owners.

Under the county system, Lake Worth would therefore have an estimated increase in annual revenue of some \$6,631. This is, of course, represented by the difference between its present income derived from the issuance of cards and the \$8,895 that would be received from the county.

If Lake Worth continues to support its library in the future as it has in the past, there would be no decrease in the taxation of the city property owners by reason of the county system. If the city enters into the spirit as well as the letter of the county library plan, it would not decrease its tax support since this is requested by the advocates of the county plan. They state that it is not their idea to decrease the facilities provided by a city but rather to increase the library facilities in the county as a whole. If a city decreases its support of the library because of the county revenue, then the result would be only the maintenance of existing library facilities as they are rather than an increase in standards.

The foregoing facts are, of course, based upon the assumption that the charge for a Lake Worth card to those persons who have to pay for it will continue to be \$1 in face of the per capita costs to residents of Lake Worth in the amount of \$2.47. The Library Board has given and is giving consideration to a change in this amount, however, there are many factors that must be included in a decision to change, not the least of which is

the effect on our tourists and the fact that the library draws people from out of Lake Worth into Lake Worth.

The representatives of the county library system expressed the opinion that the County Commissioners would levy millage sufficient in amount to raise \$200,000 for the county system. The present tax support of libraries by municipalities is approximately \$239,971. If all of the cities that furnish this tax support qualify their libraries without any increase in tax support, then the fifteen per cent that all the qualifying libraries would receive would represent \$49,495. If this is deducted from the \$200,000, it would leave \$150,505 to be expended in other parts of the county system. Just what this would buy was not explained by the county representatives and therefore this Board is unable to render an opinion. It, of course, would be presumed that it would be support in a manner beneficial to the county as a whole and for each of the libraries in the county.

Inasmuch as the cities having libraries currently support the libraries to the extent of \$329,971 and have spent this amount for several years, it would presumably take several years for the county system to be able to render very much assistance to the better libraries in the county. We think it should be presumed that some assistance will be rendered immediately and that ultimately considerable assistance will be rendered. We are, however, reminded of Aesop's Fable in which the dog with his bone is crossing over a bridge spanning a small stream. While on the bridge, the dog pauses and looks down into the water where there is a reflected dog with a bone. The bone in the water appears to be considerably larger than the bone that the dog has in his mouth. The dog drops his bone in order to grab the bigger one reflected in the water and loses his bone in the stream. If Lake Worth had a poor, mediocre or fair library, then it might be well to drop its bone and reach for the bone in the water. Lake Worth's library is, however, by most any standards you wish to use, one of the best libraries in the county and we of this Board believe it to be the best. If there is to be any benefit to the county and the county residents by reason of this federation at least in the near future, such benefits of necessity must come at the expense of the residents of these cities which have good libraries.

Lake Worth is at the present time furnishing library facilities not only to the residents of Lake Worth but also to all residents around Lake Worth who live within a distance close enough for those people to avail themselves of the library. Since Lake Worth's charge to non-residents is more than nominal, it would appear unlikely that the scope of service that the areas serviced by the Lake Worth Library would be enlarged under the county system, that is at least if Lake Worth is going to continue to operate its library in approximately the same manner as it is now operating. If, as a part of the county system, Lake Worth were to lend a considerable number of its books to other libraries throughout the county, the scope of the area serviced by Lake Worth could be increased but at the same time these books would not be available to those persons now being served by the library.

If we assume on the other hand that there will be a substantial increase in the use of the Lake Worth Library facilities by reason of the city's joining the county system, the effect on the Lake Worth Library would at times be very bad. If you were to visit the library at this time, you would find the librarians fairly busy and the library being

actively used. During the winter season when schools are in session and our winter visitors are here, it is quite often difficult for a patron to obtain a seat at a desk in order to study the reference books that cannot be removed. All of the librarians are constantly busy rendering assistance to the library visitors. During this winter season the library handles just about as many patrons as it can. An increase in business would seriously overburden our present facilities. While such an increase would furnish invaluable library facilities to the new user, it would nonetheless seriously hamper the residents of Lake Worth in the use of their library.

There are, no doubt, those who will consider the attitude of this Board to be selfish, and ultra-conservative, and that this Board has no regard for those unfortunates who reside so far from the Lake Worth Library as to be unable to avail themselves of its facilities under the present system, that it has no regard for those residents of the unincorporated areas or, in effect, those residents outside the City of Lake Worth who cannot afford to pay \$1, or, if increased, the increased amount, for a library card.

It is with recognition of the foregoing that this Board recommends to the City Commission that in its opinion it is in the best interests of the City of Lake Worth that the Lake Worth Library not join in the county federation at the present time. This Board recognizes that at some future date the situation might so change as to make it in the best interests of the City of Lake Worth that the Lake Worth Library join in the county system and to that end, this Board intends to keep an open mind and recommends to the Lake Worth City Commission that it do the same.

This Board is not unmindful of the fact that if both Lake Worth and West Palm Beach join in the county system that residents of Lake Worth would be entitled to use the West Palm Beach Library without charge. It is, however, expected that very few would avail themselves of this privilege.

Respectfully submitted,

LAKE WORTH LIBRARY BOARD

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President (signed)

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Librarian (Signed)



NASON AND GILDAN

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

10TH FLOOR HARVEY BUILDING

WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA

POST OFFICE BOX 1309

WILL A. NASON  
HERBERT L. GILDAN

TELEPHONE  
TEMPLE 2-2869

July 13, 1967

Timothy P. Poulton, Esquire  
City Attorney, City of Boca Raton  
201 West Palmetto Park Road  
Boca Raton, Florida

Re: Countywide Library System

Dear Tim:

Thank you for your letter of July 6th regarding the proposed County library system. Reviewing your points as you made them, the first point has great merit and should be in the final contract to be signed between the County and the City by adding the words "a minimum of." In this regard and concerning the entire letter, the contract we drew is in general form taken from Polk County and Hillsborough County in their county library agreements with municipal libraries. It was not intended that this be a final draft of the contract, since the County Attorney may have certain suggestions he would like to add to it. Also, we found that the various municipal libraries may also wish to have changes made, such as your suggestions. What was hoped for at this time is that the City of Boca Raton would in principle agree to go along with the County library federation and that, as you suggest, changes could be made where necessary and proper to make the agreement between the County and the City of value to each.

Your second point about changing the words "free use" of the City Library may create some problems. It had been our hope that the County Library system would be beneficial and not detrimental to any City library, but it may be that a free library is necessary to form a County library system. If it is legally possible to make the changes you suggest, we would of course recommend it, but if the County Attorney feels that a free public library is necessary, we would like to discuss this point further with you and the City of Boca Raton.

Your third suggestion about taxing real estate within the City seems to be covered by the Florida Statute and also by a recent case involving the county library system of Pinellas County. This was Case No. 35,605 of the Supreme Court of Florida, in which the opinion was filed June 7, 1967. I am not certain that it is yet in the advance sheets, but it is available in the County Law Library. Here Pinellas County created a "taxing district to be composed of an area within the territorial limits of the County, less property that 'already taxed for library purposes'". This was held to be valid and exempted from the tax any cities presently levying a tax for library services within the county. It is our opinion that the case, together with the statute, amply protects all those cities who use tax funds for libraries. We feel that, if necessary, the Board of County Commissioners would send a letter of assurance to the City of Boca Raton. I don't know that we can get such a letter from Edgar Maxwell, but it is my strong opinion that no such letter is needed and that the City has ample protection that it would not be taxed. As was done in Pinellas County by resolution, it is intended that the County would establish a County library system to be financed by a tax levy of ~~one-half mill~~ in unincorporated areas and such municipalities as desire to participate or do not use money from ad valorem sources for library services. With such a tax levy, I doubt that the tax assessor can assess taxes on municipalities that do use money from ad valorem sources for library purposes. This again refers to the case of Rileigh v. Pinellas County, Florida Supreme Court Case No. 35,605.

Finally, as to your fourth point, it was the intention of the last line of Paragraph 4 that the money be paid to the City for deposit into the General Fund, but that an accounting be made by the City showing that the monies paid to the City by the County were used solely for library purposes within the City. I would imagine that the annual report of the City would show the money spent for library services, and it is not necessary that any special fund be set up, but that an expenditure equal to the amount of money paid by the County to the City be accounted for by the City as having been spent solely for library purposes. Perhaps this sentence can be clarified to assure you that this is what is intended and we have no objection to making any changes along that line.

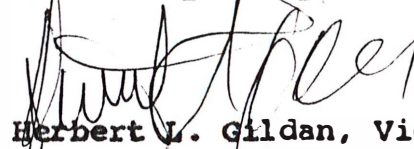
Mr. Poulton

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Jul. 13, 1967

I trust this is a sufficient answer to your letter of July 6th, but if not, please let me know what, if anything, further can be done, since it is our hope that the City of Boca Raton will join in the County federated library system. As I am sure Mrs. Eckler has told you, it is the feeling of all members of the County Library Advisory Committee that the proposal is of substantial benefit not only to the entire County, but in particular to each participating City. We would therefore appreciate any favorable action the City of Boca Raton may care to take. We wish to fully advise you, however, that to whatever extent we can work with the City of Boca Raton in tailoring any contract to its specific needs, we will try out utmost to accomplish this.

Yours very truly,



Herbert L. Gildan, Vice Chairman  
Palm Beach County Library  
Advisory Committee

HLG:bc

cc: Mrs. W. E. Eckler  
P. O. Box 183  
Delray Beach, Florida



## OFFICERS:

## CHAIRMAN:

MRS. W. E. ECKLER  
BOX 183  
DELRAY BEACH, FLORIDA

## VICE CHAIRMAN:

HERBERT L. GILDAN  
ROOM 1015 HARVEY BLDG.  
WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA

## SECRETARY:

MRS. ALAN S. RUSH  
812 FLAMINGO DRIVE  
WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA

# PALM BEACH COUNTY LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

August 9, 1967

## MEMBERS:

MRS. A. J. VANBERKUM  
KENNETH NOLEN  
MISS MAMIE T. SHANNON  
CHARLES MUNNINGS  
WEST PALM BEACH  
MRS. LAWRENCE R. LEVITON  
PALM BEACH  
MRS. CHARLES TAFFEL  
PALM SPRINGS  
MRS. LESLIE G. THOMPSON  
LAKE WORTH  
PAUL SPEICHER  
DELRAY BEACH  
WILLIAM F. MITCHELL  
BOCA RATON  
MRS. MILDRED LARRICK  
LAKE HARBOR  
MRS. F. H. POTEETE  
PANORAMA  
LARRY ROYAL  
BELLE GLADE

The regular meeting of the Palm Beach County Library Advisory Committee was called to order by the Chairman, Mrs. W. E. Eckler, on Wednesday, August 9, 1967, at 8:10 p.m. in the West Palm Beach Public Library Board Room.

Members present were: Mrs. Eckler, Mr. Speicher, Mrs. Larrick, Mrs. Nye, Mrs. Thompson, Mrs. Rush, Mrs. Taffel, Mrs. Leviton and Miss Shannon. Mrs. Derek Brock, Chairman of the Library Committee of the League of Women Voters, was a special guest. Also Miss Zella Adams, head librarian of the West Palm Beach Public Library, was present.

Members absent were: Mr. Gildan, Mr. Nolen, Mr. Royal, Mr. Opel, Mr. Munnings and Mrs. Poteete.

Mrs. Eckler reported that the meetings with city library boards throughout the county have been completed.

Miss Elizabeth Cole has left Tallahassee to become Head of State Library Extension in Tennessee. Miss Florence Ciller will be our new consultant. Mrs. Eckler and Miss Carolyn Wolfe, Delray Beach Librarian, lunched with her and found her to be very helpful to us. This was an exploratory trip for her. She was complimentary about how we have progressed.

Mrs. Eckler read a rough draft of what might be <sup>said</sup> ~~present~~ to the County Commission. She talked with Commission Chairman Van Kessel and asked him how soon we will be called upon to appear. He replied that as soon as they finish the Board of Equalization they will go to work on the budget -- working first with departments and then get around to people like us. Mrs. Eckler told him we have just completed meetings with the library boards. Mr. Van Kessel said it will be a week or more before we are called. When we do appear, he hopes as many members of this committee as possible will appear.

Mrs. Eckler has not yet written the Society of the Four Arts about their library but Mrs. Leviton has talked to them.

Mr. Speicher thinks this is a very good presentation and suggested a sheet in addition that outlines our goal so that the County Commission can see what we have in mind (describe warehouse type of county library system center, etc.).

Miss Zella Adams: I would as near as possible find out what the budget will be and how much is going to libraries. You should have nearly as exact a figure as possible.

Mrs. Eckler: The feeling I get from talking with Mr. Van Kessel is that we have a workable plan and they indicated they are interested but concerned about the shortage of money. There is a point beyond which this token amount would be of no value to us.

Mrs. Eckler called Mr. Icard about getting budget requests. We agreed at our May meeting to cut our request to \$200,000.00. Mrs. Eckler wrote a letter to Mr. Icard with copies to County Commissioners asking \$200,000.00 for county library system and \$250 for this committee's expenses if this committee should be continued. Our \$200,000 has been included in budget request.

Mrs. Taffel thinks the agreement should be included in the contract in addition to what Mr. Speicher proposes.

Miss Zella Adams suggested getting positive reactions first and negative last.

Mrs. Leviton suggested that enclosures should be in body of the report.

August 7, 1967

2.

OFFICERS:

CHAIRMAN:

MRS. W. E. ECKLER  
BOX 183  
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SECRETARY:

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612 FLAMINGO DRIVE  
WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA

PALM BEACH COUNTY  
LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEMBERS:

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Mr. Speicher thinks an outline even in graphic form should state revisions.

Mrs. Leviton suggested a map showing areas not served.

Mrs. Thompson: Lake Worth may consider joining the county system sometime in the future but not at this time.

Mrs. Eckler and Mr. Gildan have letters from some of the city councils.

Mrs. Taffel: Palm Springs voted to join and will bring library up to standard.

Mrs. Eckler: The people in Belle Glade were in favor but the City Manager was adamant. At meetings Mrs. Eckler read the plan and talked about contract for about 20 minutes and then had a question and answer period. We were thoughtfully received.

Miss Zella Adams: People have inquired as to when the County Library system will be started. Miss Adams told them to phone County Commissioners and say they are in favor of a County Library System.

Mrs. Eckler will give Mrs. Rush, the secretary, a finished copy of the proposed presentation.

Mrs. Leviton: Jupiter is interested in having a sub-station library. Although we may not get unanimous participation of all areas when the system starts the experience has been in other counties that they eventually join.

Mrs. Eckler: The County Library System should be offered again to all libraries in the county. They should be given an opportunity to join.

Miss Zella Adams asked if 15% is based on last year's budget (not feasible on current budget). In regard to population -- after taking out seven communities (257,000 persons), we are still 12,000 to the good as far as 75% is concerned.

Mrs. Leviton: Even if we didn't get 75% we could start system without federal funds but County Commissioners prefer to have federal funds, a director, etc. Request for funds has to be in by September 1.

Mrs. Eckler: In reference to the budget -- we have to have a library director and he has to have a secretary. We have to be prepared to fight for some kind of a sum of money and not accept a pittance. One thing we have been promised is the 15% from last year's budget. We must have about \$36,400 (payable in 12 monthly installments) to provide county library service, housing and equipment and at least two book stations.

Miss Zella Adams: Any librarian would have to have assistants.

Mrs. Leviton: Point out basic needs such as staff and books for unserved people.

Miss Zella Adams: Put type writers, furniture, equipment under capital outlay. In my budget--books are capital outlay. Take population of people serviced -- they give 15% -- part of the contract--that leaves 108,000 in unincorporated area. In order to have a library, you should have at least three books per person. It is obvious you are not going to have 300,000 books the first year--aim at 7,000 to 8,000 books. Low average \$5.00 per book.

Mr. Speicher: We cannot do an adequate job for less than \$200,000.

August 7 1967

## OFFICERS:

## CHAIRMAN:

MRS. W. E. ECKLER  
BOX 183  
DELRAY BEACH, FLORIDA

## VICE CHAIRMAN:

HERBERT L. GILDAN  
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## SECRETARY:

MRS. ALAN S. RUSH  
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PALM BEACH COUNTY  
LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## MEMBERS:

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KENNETH NOLEN  
MISS MAMIE T. SHANNON  
CHARLES MUNNINGS  
WEST PALM BEACH  
MRS. LAWRENCE R. LEVITON  
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BELLE GLADE

Miss Zella Adams: They will give you more for tangible things such as desks. You can advertise for a library administrator and a librarian.

Mrs. Leviton: You can get help on this from the state--they have lists of librarians available, etc.

Mr. Speicher: Is it agreed that we go for \$200,000 -- the minimum we think can do with? If we are given less, we will have to revise our thinking and start trimming.

Mrs. Eckler: It is agreed that we ask for \$200,00.00.

Each County Commissioner and every committee member should have a copy of the final statement. Maybe the press would like copies after the meeting.

Mrs. Eckler: The meeting with the Lake Worth Board lasted 1½ hours and we answered all questions. The attorney was satisfied on legal matters after conferring with Mr. Gildan.

Mrs. Thompson said it was too late an hour to read the report of the Lake Board. She will have copies mailed to each committee member as soon as possible.

As there was no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting adjourned at 10 p.m.

*Reine Rush*

Reine Rush  
(Mrs. Alan S. Rush)

Secretary



To the Board of County Commissioners, Palm Beach County:

Gentlemen:

It is with a great deal of pleasure that we report to you at this time the results of our meetings throughout the County. The presentations to the representatives of the municipal library boards and/or city councils or commissions, as the case might be, were made by me with at least one other member of this committee present and participating in the discussion.

The plan offered was the same as was presented to you on February 7, 1967; namely, that a county library system be established with a federation of the existing municipal libraries as the foundation supplemented by county funds with contractual arrangements between the respective official bodies and the Board of County Commissioners. The county funds would come from an ad valorem tax on the unincorporated area plus those incorporated municipalities not now supporting libraries with tax monies.

For a library to become a part of the federation it must spend a minimum of \$1.00 per capita or .25 mills per annum for library operation and be open a minimum of 30 hours per week.

As a member of the federation, the library will provide free library service and free use of its library facilities to all county residents living in the unincorporated area, the incorporated municipalities not now having libraries and those municipalities whose libraries have joined the system. The local library will be completely autonomous insofar as its rules and regulations, selection of books, personnel, etc.

In return for service to those outside its community the county will pay to the municipal library a sum equal to 15% of the monies spent the previous year on library operation. The library will also benefit from the additional services such as professional help, central purchasing and processing, central catalogue, and the avoidance of much duplication. Such a system would also make possible the acquisition of material which cannot now be purchased by any individual library due to cost and/or limited demand.

To service those residents who are rather far removed from any existing library we propose book stations in shopping centers as a start. We are not proposing a county library but rather a county library service.

We are happy to report that we have met with representatives of all the municipal library boards in Palm Beach County except for the Society of Four Arts Library. Since it is a private, subscription library, it is not eligible to become part of a free, public system. They will, however, be advised of our activities. In Lantana the meeting was with a group of citizens interested in improving their library service. They were in the midst of an endeavor which they were obliged to complete and were advised that they could still become a part of this system this year should it be established and should that be their wish. The citizens at this meeting reacted quite favorably to our proposition.

One fact which came out of our meetings is that the local pride in a library is very great and must be preserved. In every community this pride was most evident and will be guarded jealously. We had thought this to be true. Now we know it.

The following libraries in the county have said they would support the system as presented to them: North Palm Beach, Lake Park, Riviera Beach, West Palm Beach, Village of Palm Springs, Delray Beach, Boca Raton and Belle Glade.

We have not as yet heard from Greenacres City or Pahokee.

The two municipalities which have said they do not choose to join at the present time are Lake Worth and Boynton Beach. In Lake Worth the action was taken by the City Commissioners on the recommendation of the Library Board. In Boynton Beach the Library Board had recommended to the City Commission that they join the system. There is reason to believe they will both join at a later date.

One question which came up in every meeting was the matter of the 15% of the previous year's expenditures to be paid by the county to the municipal library. We had to tell them that we do not know if it is fair but that we had to start someplace and assured them that if at the end of a year or two of experience it is found that it is not equitable, then it will be reconsidered. We were told by the larger libraries which have said they will support the system that they will be watching this very closely and we are sure they will.

The smaller libraries which have indicated a desire to join the system are more interested in the services which would be available to them and the savings they would realize in many ways. The larger libraries realize that they will be serving as the foundation upon which a system will be built and that the benefits to them for several years will be small if any but they are concerned that library service in the county be improved and hope that the 15% will be sufficient to offset the additional costs they will incur as a member of the system.

The population in these eight communities which have expressed a willingness to join the system added to the population in the area of the county not now having any library service totals just over 75% using the figures as of January 1, 1967. This means that we have met one of the criteria for being eligible for state and federal funds.

The eight libraries which will serve as the foundation of the system represent an investment in building and fixtures of over \$1,250,000. According to the 1965-66 Florida Library Directory these eight libraries have over 150,000 volumes on their shelves. Publishers' Weekly for February, 1967, reports the average cost of hardback books for 1966 to be \$7.94, up from the 1957-59 average price of \$5.29. Using a figure of \$8.00 per book we find it would cost \$1,200,000 to replace the volumes now in these libraries. The amount budgeted for fiscal 1966-67 was \$236,535 to serve 154,000 people and in most if not all instances these budgeted figures have been increased for fiscal 1967-68. A substantial investment will be available to the county system. In 1966-67 the per capita expenditure in these eight cities was \$1.54 which will be increased in 1967-68 to approximately the \$1.85 per capita represented by a \$200,000 expenditure by the county for the 108,000 people now unserved.

It is our recommendation that you, the Board of County Commissioners of Palm Beach County, take the necessary action to establish a Palm Beach County Library System effective October 1, 1967 with the federation of the above named libraries as its foundation. We also recommend that all eligible libraries be offered a contract regardless of their response to us. It is our further recommendation that you fund this system with \$200,000 to be raised by a tax upon all properties in the unincorporated area of the county plus those municipalities not now paying a library tax.

We believe that we will meet the criteria of serving 75% of the population of the county. The next criteria is that we have a qualified Library Director at the head of the system. It is not going to be easy to find this person and we will not be able to attract a qualified person unless the system is sufficiently

well financed. We also know that those county systems which have run into trouble can trace it primarily to the fact that they were under-financed. What we have "sold", if you will, to the municipal libraries is not just the additional 15% of their previous year's operating expenditure but additional service which will mean as much if not more to many of them than the 15%. These services cannot be rendered without sufficient funding. We will not be able to qualify for state and national funds until next year in any event but every step possible toward becoming eligible should be taken.

It is incumbent upon us, also, to provide service to areas which are rather far removed from any existing library. Steps in this direction must be taken as quickly as possible.

Even though we do not have 100% participation of libraries in the system, we feel we should proceed. We would remind you that in every instance where a county system has been established in the State of Florida, there have been "hold outs". As a general rule these libraries have asked to become a part of the system in a few years. Therefore, based on experience elsewhere, we have reason to believe that all the eligible libraries will be a part of our system very shortly.

Gentlemen, it has been a most interesting experience for me to go around the county and present the findings of this committee, to meet with so many people who are concerned about library service, and to see them so willing to take part in this program once they are assured that THEIR library will remain autonomous. We believe that Palm Beach County MUST face up to the fact that its library service needs to be improved and that a system such as we have presented can accomplish the task. We also believe that we CANNOT delay the matter whether we look at a library as an addition to the recreational facilities of the county, as a part of the continuing education of the citizens of the county, or, if you will, from a pure dollars and cents standpoint.

Prepared by:

Mrs. W. E. Eckler, Chairman  
Palm Beach County Library  
Advisory Committee



## OFFICERS:

## CHAIRMAN:

MRS. W. E. ECKLER  
BOX 193  
DELRAY BEACH, FLORIDA

## VICE CHAIRMAN:

HERBERT L. GILDAN  
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## SECRETARY:

MRS. ALAN S. RUSH  
812 FLAMINGO DRIVE  
WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA

# PALM BEACH COUNTY LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

September 19, 1967

## MEMBERS:

MRS. A. J. VANBERKUM  
KENNETH NOLEN  
MISS MAMIE T. SHANNON  
CHARLES MUNNINGS  
WEST PALM BEACH  
MRS. LAWRENCE R. LEVITON  
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LAKE HARBOR  
MRS. F. H. POTEETE  
PAHOKEE  
LARRY ROYAL  
BELLE GLADE

A special meeting of the Palm Beach County Library Advisory Committee was held in the office of County Commission Chairman E. F. Van Kessel at the Courthouse on Tuesday, September 19, 1967, at 2:00 p.m.

Mrs. W. E. Eckler, committee chairman, brought up the points to be presented at the commission meeting at 2:30 p.m. today.

After discussing the points with members present -- Mr. Gildan, Mr. Speicher, Mrs. Leviton, Mrs. Thompson and Mrs. Rush -- Mrs. Eckler declared the meeting adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING -- Tuesday, September 19, 1967, 2:30 p.m. in the County Commission Room of the Courthouse.

In addition to the Commissioners -- Mr. Jack Deane, County Administrator, and Mr. Paul Icard, County Controller, were present -- also Assistant County Attorney, George Bailey.

Highlights of the meeting were covered by an account written by Frances Burke, reporter for the PALM BEACH POST-TIMES, and appeared in the September 30, 1967 issue as follows:

## COMMISSIONERS APPROVE PLAN FOR COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM

"No opposition was expressed to the proposed county library system Friday, during a public hearing held by county commissioners.

However, the service apparently will not begin for at least another year, because of the technical problems in setting up a special library taxing district in time for the new budget year which begins Oct. 1.

During the Friday hearing, Assistant County Attorney George Bailey, reported that it would be 'practically impossible' to include the costs on the current assessment roll for Palm Beach County.

Despite the delay, commissioners approved a resolution authorizing creation of the special district, which Commission Chairman E. F. Van Kessel said was a 'guarantee' that the system would be established even though it would not be set during the coming year.

He told members of the library study committee that 'By the time you work out all of the mechanics that you need to work out, we will be ready to operate.'

The special library taxing district is to cover only the areas in the county which do not already pay library taxes. Those which already support municipal libraries would not be taxed again for the proposed county service.

According to Bailey, one of the difficulties in setting up the special district is that some large properties owned by railroads and utility companies are situated partially in areas which already support libraries and partially in areas which do not.

There would not be time to determine how much of such properties in time for the new budget year, he said.

During the Friday hearing, commissioners also appointed the 15-member library study committee, which is headed by Mrs. W. E. Eckler of Delray Beach, to act as the Library Advisory Board for the proposed system.

## OFFICERS:

## CHAIRMAN:

MRS. W. E. ECKLER  
BOX 183  
DELRAY BEACH, FLORIDA

## VICE CHAIRMAN:

HERBERT L. GILDAN  
ROOM 1015 HARVEY BLDG.  
WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA

## SECRETARY:

MRS. ALAN S. RUSH  
812 FLAMINGO DRIVE  
WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA

PALM BEACH COUNTY  
LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## MEMBERS:

MRS. A. J. VANBERKUM  
KENNETH NOLEN  
MISS MAMIE T. SHANNON  
CHARLES MUNNINGS  
WEST PALM BEACH  
MRS. LAWRENCE R. LEVITON  
PALM BEACH  
MRS. CHARLES TAFFEL  
PALM SPRINGS  
MRS. LESLIE G. THOMPSON  
LAKE WORTH  
PAUL SPEICHER  
DELRAY BEACH  
WILLIAM F. MITCHELL  
BOCA RATON  
MRS. MILDRED LARRICK  
LAKE HARBOR  
MRS. F. H. POTEETE  
PAHOKEE  
LARRY ROYAL  
BELLE GLADE

A budget of \$250 was set for the ground-work plans during the next year, but Van Kessel said if more is needed, "some way or other we'll help you."

Mrs. Eckler had asked that the budget be lifted to \$500.

The public hearing on the library plan was attended by about 25 persons."

A feature of the meeting was a short talk by Mrs. Allan Anderson, President of the League of Women Voters. "Speaking for Palm Beach and South Palm Beach, may I thank you for this opportunity for renewing a study of library facilities begun in 1963. The conclusion was that a county-wide system offered most practical method of library service to the most people. We have followed closely the steps which you have taken. Under your leadership progress has been made. The 15 member advisory committee deserve utmost praise for their untiring efforts.

You called this meeting for their final report. The report is too good to be filed away and is indeed worthy. We earnestly request that you let none of this come to naught for the sake of our children. We believe the time for the establishment of a county library system is now!"

At 3:35 p.m. a SPECIAL SESSION OF THE COUNTY COMMISSION was called to order by the Chairman, E. F. Van Kessel.

Mr. Weaver moved that all five commission members waive notice of special meeting. Seconded by Mr. Bandlow and carried.

Mr. Warren moved that the report of Mrs. Eckler be recorded in the minutes of this meeting. Seconded by Mr. Weaver and carried.

Mr. Warren moved that the recommendation of Mrs. Allan Anderson, President of the League of Women Voters, be incorporated in the minutes of this meeting. Motion seconded by Mr. Bandlow and carried.

County Attorney Bailey reminded them that under statute 150 a special hearing must be called. Notice was given that the hearing will be 10 A.M. on September 29, 1967 in the Courthouse -- room to be announced later.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

*Reine Rush*

Reine Rush  
(Mrs. Alan S. Rush)

Secretary

14  
Sept. 12, 1967

To the Board of County Commissioners, Palm Beach County:

Gentlemen:

It is with a great deal of pleasure that we report to you at this time the results of our meetings throughout the County. The presentations to the representatives of the municipal library boards and/or city councils or commissions, as the case might be, were made by me with at least one other member of this committee present and participating in the discussion.

The plan offered was the same as was presented to you on February 7, 1967; namely, that a county library system be established with a federation of the existing municipal libraries as the foundation supplemented by county funds with contractual arrangements between the respective official bodies and the Board of County Commissioners. The county funds would come from an ad valorem tax on the unincorporated area plus those incorporated municipalities not now supporting libraries with tax monies.

For a library to become a part of the federation it must spend a minimum of \$1.00 per capita or .25 mills per annum for library operation and be open a minimum of 30 hours per week.

As a member of the federation, the library will provide free library service and free use of its library facilities to all county residents living in the unincorporated area, the incorporated municipalities not now having libraries and those municipalities whose libraries have joined the system. The local library will be completely autonomous insofar as its rules and regulations, selection of books, personnel, etc.

In return for service to those outside its community the county will pay to the municipal library a sum equal to 15% of the



monies spent the previous year on library operation. The library will also benefit from the additional services such as professional help, central purchasing and processing, central catalogue, and the avoidance of much duplication. Such a system would also make possible the acquisition of material which cannot now be purchased by any individual library due to cost and/or limited demand.

To service those residents who are rather far removed from any existing library we propose book stations in shopping centers as a start. We are not proposing a county library but rather a county library service.

We are happy to report that we have met with representatives of all the municipal library boards in Palm Beach County except for the Society of Four Arts Library. Since it is a private, subscription library, it is not eligible to become part of a free, public system. They will, however, be advised of our activities. In Lantana the meeting was with a group of citizens interested in improving their library service. They were in the midst of an endeavor which they were obliged to complete and were advised that they could still become a part of this system this year should it be established and should that be their wish. The citizens at this meeting reacted quite favorably to our proposition.

One fact which came out of our meetings is that the local pride in a library is very great and must be preserved. In every community this pride was most evident and will be guarded jealously. We had thought this to be true. Now we know it.

The following libraries in the county have said they would support the system as presented to them: North Palm Beach, Lake Park, Riviera Beach, West Palm Beach, Village of Palm Springs, Delray Beach, Boca Raton and Belle Glade.

We have not as yet heard from Greenacres City or Pahokee.

The two municipalities which have said they do not choose to join at the present time are Lake Worth and Boynton Beach. In Lake Worth the action was taken by the City Commissioners on the recommendation of the Library Board. In Boynton Beach the Library Board had recommended to the City Commission that they join the system. There is reason to believe they will both join at a later date.

One question which came up in every meeting was the matter of the 15% of the previous year's expenditures to be paid by the county to the municipal library. We had to tell them that we do not know if it is fair but that we had to start someplace and assured them that if at the end of a year or two of experience it is found that it is not equitable, then it will be reconsidered. We were told by the larger libraries which have said they will support the system that they will be watching this very closely and we are sure they will.

The smaller libraries which have indicated a desire to join the system are more interested in the services which would be available to them and the savings they would realize in many ways. The larger libraries realize that they will be serving as the foundation upon which a system will be built and that the benefits to them for several years will be small if any but they are concerned that library service in the county be improved and hope that the 15% will be sufficient to offset the additional costs they will incur as a member of the system.

The population in these eight communities which have expressed a willingness to join the system added to the population in the

area of the county not now having any library service totals just over 75% using the figures as of January 1, 1967. This means that we have met one of the criteria for being eligible for state and federal funds.

The eight libraries which will serve as the foundation of the system represent an investment in building and fixtures of over \$1,250,000. According to the 1965-66 Florida Library Directory these eight libraries have over 150,000 volumes on their shelves. Publishers' Weekly for February, 1967, reports the average cost of hardback books for 1966 to be \$7.94, up from the 1957-59 average price of \$5.29. Using a figure of \$8.00 per book we find it would cost \$1,200,000. to replace the volumes now in these libraries. The amount budgeted for fiscal 1966-67 was \$236,595. to serve 154,000 people and in most if not all instances these budgeted figures have been increased for fiscal 1967-68. A substantial investment will be available to the county system. In 1966-67 the per capita expenditure in these eight cities was \$1.54 which will be increased in 1967-68 to approximately the \$1.85 per capita represented by a \$200,000. expenditure by the county for the 108,000 people now unserved.

It is our recommendation that you, the Board of County Commissioners of Palm Beach County, take the necessary action to establish a Palm Beach County Library System effective October 1, 1967 with the federation of the above named libraries as its foundation. We also recommend that all eligible libraries be offered a contract regardless of their response to us. It is our further recommendation that you fund this system with \$200,000. to be raised



by a tax upon all properties in the unincorporated area of the county plus those municipalities not now paying a library tax.

We believe that we will meet the criterea of serving 75% of the population of the county. The next criterea is that we have a qualified Library Director at the head of the system. It is not going to be easy to find this person and we will not be able to attract a qualified person unless the system is sufficiently well financed. We also know that those county systems which have run into trouble can trace it primarily to the fact that they were under-financed. What we have "sold", if you will, to the municipal libraries is not just the additional 15% of their previous year's operating expenditure but additional service which will mean as much if not more to many of them than the 15%. These services cannot be rendered without sufficient funding. We will not be able to qualify for state and national funds until next year in any event but every step possible toward becoming eligible should be taken.

It is incumbent upon us, also, to provide service to areas which are rather far removed from any existing library. Steps in this direction must be taken as quickly as possible.

Even though we do not have 100% participation of libraries in the system, we feel we should proceed. We would remind you that in every instance where a county system has been established in the State of Florida, there have been "hold outs". As a general rule these libraries have asked to become a part of the system in a few years. Therefore, based on experience elsewhere, we have reason to believe that all the eligible libraries will be a part of our system very shortly.

Gentlemen, it has been a most interesting experience for me to go around the county and present the findings of this committee, to meet with so many people who are concerned about library service, and to see them so willing to take part in this program once they are assured that THEIR library will remain autonomous. We believe that Palm Beach County MUST face up to the fact that its library service needs to be improved and that a system such as we have presented can accomplish the task. We also believe that we CANNOT delay the matter whether we look at a library as an addition to the recreational facilities of the county, as a part of the continuing education of the citizens of the county, or, if you will, from a pure dollars and cents standpoint.

Prepared by:

Mrs. W. E. Eckler, Chairman

Palm Beach County Library

Advisory Committee

EDGAR W. MAXWELL  
COUNTY ASSESSOR



ROOM 201, COURT HOUSE  
TEMPLE 2-1671

## PALM BEACH COUNTY

West Palm Beach, Florida

September 22nd, 1967

Jack Dean, County Administrator  
Palm Beach County  
Courthouse  
West Palm Beach, Florida

Dear Mr. Dean:

Reference is made to your letter of September 19th and our discussions with regard to whether or not it would be legal and proper to assess ad valorem taxes to finance a county free public library under the provisions of Chapter 150 F.S. on the current 1967 county assessment roll, when such taxing district has not been properly and legally established as required by this statutory provision, even as of the present date.

As you know from our discussions, Mr. George Bailey of the office of your County Attorney, is researching this matter, and will advise you further concerning the legal aspects of this problem.

We would estimate that such a special taxing district would encompass approximately \$972,638,285 of non-exempt taxable value, which excludes any railroad properties subject to the tax in the district, and excludes any properties subject to the tax in the district owned by Florida Power & Light Co., Florida Public Utilities Co., Florida Gas Co., Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Co., American Telephone and Telegraph Co.

The above exclusions pose, in addition to the question of whether such a tax levy would be legal on the current assessment roll, the problem of the considerable delay which would be involved in advising the above-named property owners of this new district, and securing from them a return of the taxable value of their tangible personal property, and in the case of the railroad property, both real estate and tangible property, which should be included in this special taxing district.

As you may or may not know, the above listed taxpayers make countywide returns to the assessor without regard to municipal boundaries, basing their apportionments of their total countywide return on purely millage district boundaries as presently existing.



Jack Dean

- 2 -

September 22nd, 1967

It is doubtful in my mind whether the County Commission would desire to further delay the completion of the 1967 tax roll and certification of its total tax levy until such time as these property owners could effect the breakdowns necessary to prevent improper assessment and collection of any levy for the proposed county free public library taxing district.

Yours very truly,



Edgar W. Maxwell  
County Assessor

EWM/o

cc/ E. F. Van Kessel, Chairman, Board of County Commissioners  
/ George V. Warren, Commissioner  
Edward Bandlow, Commissioner  
E. W. "Bud" Weaver, Commissioner  
E. D. "Dan" Gaynor, Commissioner  
J. P. Icard, County Comptroller  
Joseph Steelman, Asst. County Comptroller  
R. Bruce Jones, County Attorney, Att: George Bailey  
Ronald Sales, Attorney

LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD

DISTRICT 1: Herbert L. Gildan  
P. O. Box 1309, West Palm Beach

Mrs. H. V. Nye  
1281 Morse Blvd., Riviera Beach

DIPS JERRY GUFFEY (JULIE)  
727 Albia relay  
71 P. B. Rd.  
33403

DISTRICT 2: Miss Mamie T. Shannon

638 5th Street, West Palm Beach, 33401

Mrs. Alan S. Rush  
812 Flamingo Drive, West Palm Beach

Mr. Robert Stevens  
1803 Tamarind Avenue, West Palm Beach

DISTRICT 3: Mrs. Lawrence R. Leviton  
214 Wells Road, Palm Beach

Mrs. Charles Taffel

353 Cavalier Road, Palm Springs, (Lake Worth)

965-3477

DISTRICT 4: Mrs. W. E. Eckler  
P. O. Box 183, Delray Beach

Mr. Paul Speicher

820 North Federal Highway, Delray Beach

Mr. John Opel

34 S. E. 2nd Street, Boca Raton

DISTRICT 5: Mr. Homer Hand

38 S. W. Avenue C

Belle Glade, Florida Phone: 996-2600

Mrs. Cleo Douthit

251 Banyan Avenue, Pahokee, Florida Phone: 924-3872

Mrs. Mary Orsenigo

101 S. E. 7th Street North, Belle Glade, Florida Phone: 996-5198

# LITERARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

DISTRICT I: ✓ Herbert L. Gildan, Attorney (Vice Chairman) 832-2869  
 Harvey Gildan, West Palm Beach - 832-2869  
 535 Gulf Road, North Palm Beach 818-3543  
 ✓ Mrs. J. G. Van Berkm (Rachel), Librarian MRS. H. M. DINE  
 234 Lantana Road, West Palm Beach 832-5826 17 SIMPSON BLVD.  
 RAVIERA BEACH 848-1111  
 210-3300  
 ✓ Kenneth Nolen, xterminator  
 3720 Westview Ave., West Palm Beach, 844-7041  
 Nolen xterminators, 844-3543 33407

DISTRICT II: ✓ Miss Tomie T. Shannon, Teacher  
 Lincoln Junior High School, 842-4281  
 res: 638 - 5th St., W.P.B. 832-5745 33407  
 ✓ Mrs. Alan S. Rush, Housewife (Secretary) 832-4655 832-4655  
 812 Lanning Dr., W.P.B.  
 ✓ Charles Turnings, Principal  
 Roosevelt Elementary School 833-6358  
 res: 1358 - 6th St., W.P.B. 832-2548 33407

DISTRICT III: ✓ Mrs. Lawrence B. Leviton, Housewife 33480  
 214 Wells Road, Palm Beach 832-1137  
 ✓ Mrs. Charles Taffel, Housewife 33460  
 353 Cavalier Road, Palm Springs, L.I. 965-3177  
 ✓ Mrs. Leslie G. Thompson (Ruby), Housewife 210: 33460  
 237 Princeton Dr., Lake Worth 582-3194

DISTRICT IV: ✓ Mrs. W. C. Jelen, Housewife (Chairman)  
 Seacrest Blvd. on P. O. Box 183  
 Delray Beach 276-5775  
 ✓ Paul Speicher, Insurance  
 827 So. Federal Hwy, Delray B. 276-5221  
 res: 430 N.E. 7th Ave., Delray Beach 276-1175  
 ✓ William F. Mitchell, Real Estate 5000 1000  
 22 So. Federal Hwy, Boca Raton 375-4711 3428 2157.  
 res: 278 N.E. 8th St., Boca Raton 375-1654 3000 1000

DISTRICT V: ✓ Mrs. Mildred Larrick  
 Lake Harbor, Florida 996-2220 33457  
 Mrs. Marilyn A. Foteele  
 357 Wimal, Pahoe 924-7826 210: 33476  
 Larry Poyal  
 216 N.E. Avenue C 996-3455 210: 33480  
 Belle Glade, Florida

#####



## OFFICERS:

## CHAIRMAN:

MRS. W. E. ECKLER  
BOX 183  
DELRAY BEACH, FLORIDA

## VICE CHAIRMAN:

HERBERT L. GILDAN  
ROOM 1015 HARVEY BLDG.  
WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA

## SECRETARY:

MRS. ALAN S. RUSH  
812 FLAMINGO DRIVE  
WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA

PALM BEACH COUNTY  
LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

812 Flamingo Drive  
West Palm Beach, Fla.  
September 25, 1967

## MEMBERS:

MRS. A. J. VANBERKUM  
KENNETH NOLEN  
MISS MAMIE T. SHANNON  
CHARLES MUNNINGS  
WEST PALM BEACH  
MRS. LAWRENCE R. LEVITON  
PALM BEACH  
MRS. CHARLES TAFFEL  
PALM SPRINGS  
MRS. LESLIE G. THOMPSON  
LAKE WORTH  
PAUL SPEICHER  
DELRAY BEACH  
WILLIAM F. MITCHELL  
BOCA RATON  
MRS. MILDRED LARRICK  
LAKE HARBOR  
MRS. F. H. POTEETE  
PANORAMA  
LARRY ROYAL  
BELLE GLADE

Dear Ingrid:

This committee is very proud of your presentation so congratulations are again in order! You, Herb Gildan and Paul Speicher have done a magnificent job.

Am very sorry about Pinellas County and certainly feel as you do that now is the time to really rally around our fine new project--the county library system.

Received the notice on Saturday at 1:00 p.m. and since the Courthouse is closed on Saturday will make every effort to get them out on Monday morning. In fact, am practically on my way as soon as I finish this note.

Hope your son is all established in college and guess it is the University of Florida since you were visiting in Palatka.

Am very sorry I can't be at the hearing on Friday at 10 a.m. as I'm going to Gainesville to see my son and also attend the state AALL convention as a delegate. It will be at the Ramada Inn... but I will stay with my son and his family. They go to New Mexico in November.

Hope you can find someone to take some notes (perhaps Elsie or Bobbie). It may be customary for the County Commissioners to have a secretary at the hearing. I saw one only at their special meeting so was glad I took voluminous minutes of the preliminary events. I honestly don't know their policy but will try to find out by asking Lily Roberts.

Will be with you in spirit on September 29 and of course, if I'm delayed in leaving till noon--will try to at least put my face in the door.

Best wishes,

*Reine*

Reine Rush

Secretary

Enc.

Sept. 29

CONTRACTS SENT TO:

BELLE GLADE

BOCA RATON  
DELRAY BEACH  
LAKE PARK

NORTH PALM BEACH

RIVIERA BEACH

WEST PALM BEACH

ALSO:

LAKE WORTH

BOYNTON BEACH

HAZE LIBRARIES:

BRINY BREEZES

PAHOKEE

GREENACRES CITY

LANTANA

PALM BEACH

*PALM SPRINGS ?*

OCEAN RIDGE

ROYAL PALM BEACH

38 municipalities

17 libraries

6 less 1000.

1 just over 1000.

1 about 4000.

3 about 15000.

6 30M to 118M

LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD

10-1-67

DISTRICT 1:

- ✓ Herbert L. Gildan  
P. O. Box 1309, West Palm Beach
- ✓ Mrs. H. V. Nye  
1281 Morse Blvd., Riviera Beach 33404

No Kenneth Nolen  
3720 Westview Ave., West Palm Beach 33407

DISTRICT 2:

- ✓ Miss Mamie T. Shannon  
638 - 5th St., West Palm Beach 33401

- ✓ Mrs. Alan S. Rush  
812 Flamingo Dr., West Palm Beach

N/A Charles Munnings  
1358 - 6th St., West Palm Beach 33401

DISTRICT 3:

- ✓ Mrs. Lawrence R. Leviton  
214 Wells Road, Palm Beach 33480

- ✓ Mrs. Charles Taffel  
353 Cavalier Road, Palm Springs, Lake Worth 33460

No Mrs. Leslie G. Thompson  
237 Princeton Dr., Lake Worth 33460

DISTRICT 4:

- ✓ Mrs. W. E. Eckler  
P. O. Box 183, Delray Beach 33444

- ✓ Mr. Paul Speicher  
820 No. Federal Hwy, Delray Beach 33444

- ✓ John Opel  
34 S. E. 2nd St., Boca Raton

DISTRICT 5:

NA Mrs. Mildred Larrick  
Lake Harbor, Fla. 33459

No Mrs. Marilyn N. Poteete  
357 Kismet, Pahokee 33476

No Larry Royal  
216 N. W. Avenue E, Belle Glade 33430



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

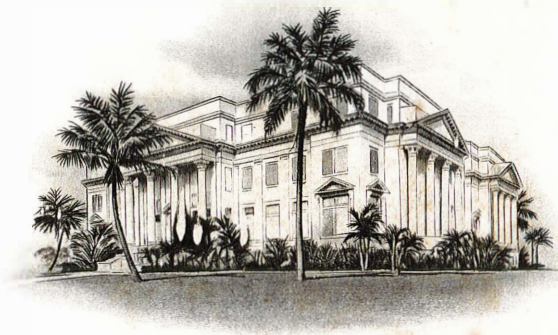
E. F. VAN KESSEL, CHAIRMAN  
DIST. NO. 1, JUNO BEACH

E. W. "BUD" WEAVER, VICE CHAIRMAN  
DIST. NO. 5, LAKE HARBOR

E. D. GAYNOR  
DIST. NO. 2, WEST PALM BEACH

EDWARD BANDLOW  
DIST. NO. 3, LAKE WORTH

GEORGE V. WARREN  
DIST. NO. 4, OCEAN RIDGE



JOHN B. DUNKLE  
CLERK

G. R. FROST  
ENGINEER

J. P. ICARD  
COMPTROLLER

PALM BEACH COUNTY

WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA

October 12, 1967

Library Advisory Committee  
P. O. Box 183  
Delray Beach, Florida

Dear Mrs. Eckler:

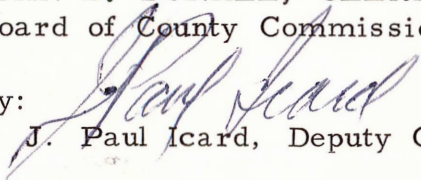
Please be advised that the Board of County Commissioners sitting in special session on October 6, 1967 adopted its budget for the fiscal year 1967-1968.

We are pleased to inform you that an allocation in the amount of \$250.00 has been budgeted for your operation.

Sincerely,

JOHN B. DUNKLE, CLERK  
Board of County Commissioners

By:

  
J. Paul Icard, Deputy Clerk

JBD/JPI/an

## OFFICERS:

## CHAIRMAN:

MRS. W. E. ECKLER  
BOX 183  
DELRAY BEACH, FLORIDA

## VICE CHAIRMAN:

HERBERT L. GILDAN  
ROOM 1018 HARVEY BLDG.  
WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA

## SECRETARY:

MRS. ALAN S. RUSH  
812 FLAMINGO DRIVE  
WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA

PALM BEACH COUNTY  
LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

October 19, 1964

## MEMBERS:

MRS. A. J. VANBERKUM  
KENNETH NOLEN  
MISS MAMIE T. SHANNON  
CHARLES MUNNINGS  
WEST PALM BEACH  
MRS. LAWRENCE R. LEVITON  
PALM BEACH  
MRS. CHARLES TAPPEL  
PALM SPRINGS  
MRS. LESLIE G. THOMPSON  
LAKE WORTH  
PAUL SPEICHER  
DELRAY BEACH  
WILLIAM F. MITCHELL  
BOCA RATON  
MRS. MILDRED LARRICK  
LAKE HARBOR  
MRS. F. H. POTEETE  
PAHOKEE  
LARRY ROYAL  
BELLE GLADE

The meeting continued at 8:00 p.m. when the committee members present (Mrs. Eckler, Mr. Gildan, Mrs. Rush, Mrs. Thompson, Mrs. Larrick, Mr. Speicher, Miss Shannon, Mrs. Nye, Mr. Opel and Mr. Munnings) were joined by Commissioner and Mrs. E. W. Weaver, Commissioner E. F. Van Kessel, Miss Zella Adams, head librarian of the West Palm Beach Library and Mr. Huber, Librarian at Riviera Beach.

Commissioner Warren phoned from Lantana that he was delayed by a political meeting. He will call Mrs. Eckler in the morning and look to other commissioners to brief him.

Mrs. Eckler: We had an organizational meeting in November 1965; then resumed in January 1966 after the holidays. It has been a joy to work with this committee. We have worked hard--the majority did their homework. We had frank discussions. The things I am going to tell you tonight we do agree on. This is not a final report. We are now needing your guidance before we take further steps. The first thing we did was to have a consultant from the Florida State Library.

The basic findings are: That we have 14 municipal libraries; 212,255 people; 103,874 people unserved. These 14 libraries spent \$335,820 during 1965-66. Most of this was tax money from the municipalities-- amounts to just over \$1 per capita, \$1.58 per capita for population served. This ranges for individual from  $\frac{1}{2}$  per capita to \$3.35 per capita. From these figures you will see the problem is rather self-evident.

We recognize the fact that libraries are terribly important. When anyone is moving into a community, they look at schools, churches, libraries and recreation. Their age and economic level will determine at what point their interest is in a library. Our fund of knowledge doubled between 1900 and 1950 especially in the scientific areas and is expected to double in the next decade. Libraries will take on even more significance.

This is not a final report. We did agree on:

1. That we have some sort of a county library system is necessary.
2. There are two ways that are accepted in Florida: one is to set up a county library system where there is a five-member board appointed by the governor. The other system is a federation of libraries with contractual arrangement --main library in system with whom County Commission would contract. There would be a 15 member advisory board.
3. Tax base -- we have spelled this out: the tax base will be the unincorporated areas plus those incorporated municipalities not now supporting libraries with tax monies and any other incorporated areas which might choose to be taxed by the county for library purposes.
4. That all present municipal libraries meeting minimum standards, to be established will be encouraged to contract with the county library system.
5. Our main objective should be to get every library we can to join the county library system. When we are serving 75% of the population, then municipal libraries which are members of the county system as well as the county library system will be eligible for state library funds. However, even if we do not reach the 75% figure at the start, we are in favor of a county library system being established.

6. Our present thinking is that the main contract should be with the City of West Palm Beach and the West Palm Beach Library to serve to administer the county library system. There would be a 15 member county library advisory board to work with the West Palm Beach Library Board. Each County Commissioner would appoint three members for a three-year term on a staggered basis. Some of the duties of this advisory board would be to inform the West Palm Beach Library Board of the needs in the various parts of the county. It would make up the budget for the county system. It would set minimum standards for membership in the county system, and would serve as liaison with the municipal libraries. It would also function in the area of public relations. Local libraries will remain autonomous except for a few contractual obligations.

Which of the present libraries would be interested in joining in a contractual arrangement? It would mean that anyone who had a library card would be able to use any library in the county system. We should have some indication of what kind of cooperation we are going to have from these 14 libraries.

We cannot presume to approach any of them without first going to you-- the County Commissioners. We will have to work up some budget figures -- right up-to-date figures.

We decided not to meet in November and December -- during the months we will meet in north and south county committees.

We do have contracts in Florida which do meet with the Florida law. What we are asking from you is comment, criticism, suggestion and direction.

Mr. Van Kessel: Problem is to for a tax district.

Mr. Gildan: Specifically we are talking about coming up with a minimum standard-- at least  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a mill of \$1.50 per capita in order to be a library that would contract with the county. Those outside municipalities would pay their fair share.

At this time, Mrs. Charles Taffel, committee member arrived.

Mr. Weaver: Any experimental work that you have done with last year's tax figures will not be far off. The County will not decrease its income --only about \$4,500.

Mr. Van Kessel: Big problem--not fair to put a tax upon people who are already paying a tax for same purpose. We can't justify this even in fire districts.

Mr. Speicher: Court decision fortifies that position.

Mr. Weaver: Have you had the opportunity to view any contracts in existence?

Mr. Gildan: We propose breaking up into committees. We have copies of Hillsborough, Orange and Volusia County contracts to study.

Mr. Speicher: These contracts would be entirely voluntary. If necessary, we can serve the area between Boynton Beach and Delray Beach with bookmobiles.

Mr. Van Kessel: Asked names of libraries and Mrs. Eckler read 14 names.

Mr. Gildan: There is nothing north of North Palm Beach.

Mr. Weaver: I question how you are going to move from this point on. We have to consider the time element. What you do in two committees will have to be finalized. I am delighted and encouraged at the progress you have made and appreciate the work. Do you have any idea when you can bring the balance of this information from the standpoint of budget and contractual arrangements?

Mrs. Eckler: Hope we will have a real good start in both of these areas. Hope



# Inter-Office Communication

PALM BEACH COUNTY

TO All Commissioners

DATE October 24, 1967

FROM George V. Warren, Commissioner

FILE

RE LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD - REQUEST FROM MRS. W. E. ECKLER, Chrmn.

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If the new Library Board is to function, vacancies must be filled in each district before November 1st, so that they can have a required meeting by November 15th.

The attached list shows those who have accepted re-appointment and those who have said "no" or have not acknowledged their appointment.

Please act and complete your revised appointments by Tuesday, October 31st, for Board action. No excuses, please!

Respectfully,

*George V. Warren*

GVW/m  
enc.

SIGNED \_\_\_\_\_

LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD

DISTRICT 1: *accepted 10-8-67* Herbert L. Childan  
P. O. Box 1309, West Palm Beach

*accepted 10-10-67* Mrs. H. V. Nye  
1281 Morse Blvd., Riviera Beach 33404

*no - 10 - 10 - 67* Kenneth Nolen  
3720 Westview Avenue, West Palm Beach

DISTRICT 2: *accepted 10-10-67* Miss Mamie T. Shannon  
638 - 5th St., West Palm Beach 33401

*accepted 10-10-67* Mrs. Alan S. Rush  
812 Flamingo Drive, West Palm Beach

Charles Munnings  
1358 - 6th Street, West Palm Beach

DISTRICT 3: *accepted 10-11-67* Mrs. Lawrence R. Leviton  
214 Wells Road, Palm Beach 33480

*accepted 10-12-67* Mrs. Charles Taffel  
353 Cavalier Road, Palm Springs, L. W.

*no - 10 - 10 - 67* Mrs. Leslie G. Thompson  
237 Princeton Drive, Lake Worth 33460

DISTRICT 4: *accepted 10-10-67* Mrs. W. E. Eckler  
P. O. Box 183, Delray Beach 33444

*accepted* — Mr. Paul Speicher  
820 No. Federal Highway, Delray Beach

*accepted 10-6-67* — Mr. John Opel  
34 S. E. 2nd Street, Boca Raton

DISTRICT 5: Mrs. Mildred Larrick  
Lake Harbor, Florida 33459

Mrs. Marilyn N. Potente  
357 Kismet, Pahokee 33476

*no - 10 - 10 - 67* Mr. Larry Royal  
216 N. W. Avenue E, Belle Glade 33430

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

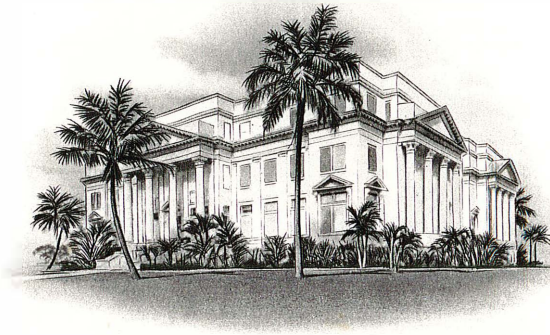
E. F. VAN KESSEL, CHAIRMAN  
DIST. NO. 1, JUNO BEACH

E. W. "BUD" WEAVER, VICE CHAIRMAN  
DIST. NO. 5, LAKE HARBOR

E. D. GAYNOR  
DIST. NO. 2, WEST PALM BEACH

EDWARD BANDLOW  
DIST. NO. 3, LAKE WORTH

GEORGE V. WARREN  
DIST. NO. 4, OCEAN RIDGE



JOHN B. DUNKLE  
CLERK

G. R. FROST  
ENGINEER

J. P. ICARD  
COMPTROLLER

PALM BEACH COUNTY

WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA

November 1, 1967

Mrs. W. E. Eckler  
P. O. Box 183  
Delray Beach, Florida

Dear Mrs. Eckler:

I submit the enclosed list of 1967-68 Library Advisory Board members, which includes those whom you had marked accepted, one new appointment by Commissioner Gaynor and three by Commissioner Weaver.

I have not been able to get Commissioners Van Kessel or Bandlow to fill in on one vacancy each, but will keep after them.

I trust you can call your meeting with this new list.

Sincerely,

  
George V. Warren  
County Commissioner

GVW/m  
enc.



PALM BEACH COUNTY LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD

November 15, 1967

An organizational meeting was called to order at 8:00 p.m. by Mrs. William Eckler, Chairman of the Palm Beach County Library Advisory Committee in the West Palm Beach Library. Those present were: Mrs. Eckler, Mrs. Guffey, Mrs. Orsenigo, Mrs. Douthit, Mr. Hand, Mr. Speicher, Mrs. Taffel, Mrs. Leviton, Mr. Stevens, Miss Shannon and Mrs. Nye.

No old business.

New business: Election of officers - Motion by Mr. Speicher seconded by Mrs. Taffel nominating Mrs. Eckler Chairman of the Palm Beach County Advisory Board. Nominations closed, Mrs. Eckler unanimously elected. Motion by Mrs. Taffel seconded by Mr. Speicher nominating Mr. Herbert Gildon Vice-Chairman. Nominations closed, Mr. Gildon unanimously elected. Motion by Mr. Speicher seconded by Miss Shannon nominating Mrs. Nye Secretary Pro-tem. Motion carried.

Meetings will be held the third Wednesday of each month at 8:00 p.m. These meetings to be at various libraries throughout the county as often as possible.

Mrs. Eckler announced that since the Palm Beach County Library Board members are appointed by a governmental agency to a group doing a civic service without remuneration, they are entitled to an income tax deduction of five cents per mile travel expenses on Committee or Board business.

New stationery will be printed when the Board has a full quota of fifteen members.

Between November 1 and 7, 1967, letters were written pursuant to instructions given us by Mr. Bailey of the County Attorney's office to all municipalities in the County advising them that a special taxing district to support a County Library System had been established on September 29, 1967. They were advised that if they already contribute tax money to support a library, their properties will be exempt from this library tax.

The following committees were appointed:

1. Contract  
Mr. Gildon and Mrs. Guffey
2. Library Director  
Mrs. Taffel, Mrs. Orsenigo, Miss Shannon and Mrs. Douthit
3. Site of Warehouse Space  
Mr. Stevens, Mr. Speicher and Mrs. Leviton
4. Budget  
Mr. Speicher, Mr. Hand, Mrs. Leviton and Mrs. Nye

Announcement that Miss Adams volunteered to store book donations for the County Library Board until acquisition of warehouse space. Various libraries in the County are to be asked if they wish to donate surplus or duplicate books.

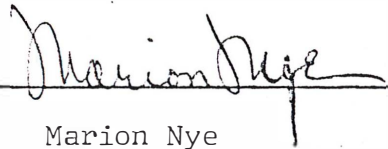
The Jupiter area has expressed eagerness for the opening of a reading room. A discussion of the possibility of loaning donated books for such a purpose. Mrs. Eckler to pursue this.

Announcement of A.L.A. Convention in Bal Harbour January 8 to 13, 1968. January 10 to be an open meeting at this convention.

A motion to join the Florida Library Association was carried. Dues to be \$2 per year.

January meeting to be at Boca Raton or Delray Beach. Members to be advised.

Meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Marion Nye  
Secretary Pro-tem